



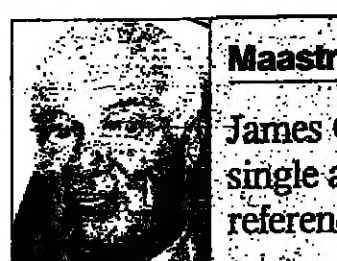
Britannia waves goodbye

Libby Purves on the troubled times facing our national symbol, page 15



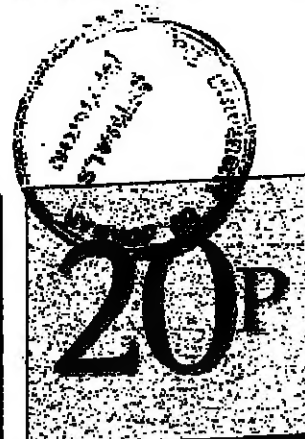
20p Amsterdam break

Bonus holiday for the price of *The Times*
Details and token, p37



Maastricht's hidden agenda

James Goldsmith on the single aim of his party's referendum on Europe



THE TIMES



No. 65,175

FRIDAY JANUARY 27 1995

FK

Tougher wording for peace appeal

Dispute over Auschwitz is patched up

FROM ROGER BOYES IN AUSCHWITZ

A DISPUTE between nations and religions that threatened to disrupt commemorations of the fiftieth anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz appeared to have been patched up last night.

Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace laureate and a former camp inmate, yesterday called for a much tougher wording of a "declaration for peace and tolerance" to be issued by a group of Nobel prizewinners led by President Walesa of Poland. "Mr Wiesel simply wants the text to say something meaningful and not just end up with a verbal mish-mash," a member of the American Jewish delegation said.

Last night it was agreed that it would be acknowledged that Jews had been the main target of Nazi atrocities.

The ugliest incident in the lead-up to the anniversary today was the attempt by Rabbi Abraham Weiss, a radical Jewish activist, to occupy a Catholic church near the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. "This cross dishonours the six



'I do not know how or why the greatest evil in history grew and flourished in such harmless-looking soil'

Bernard Levin, page 16

million," read his protest placard as he tried to block the doorway to the church of Holy Mary. "This church is illegal," he yelled. Father Jozef Swiechicki, the parish priest, told the rabbi that his presence, and not the church, was illegal. As the arguments

raged on, several dozen parishioners started to sing Catholic anthems. After some hours the Polish police eventually hustled away the rabbi, who has been protesting for well over a decade about what he regards as an attempt by Poland to treat Auschwitz as a site of Christian rather than Jewish martyrdom.

The Jewish community was not the only critic of the Polish organisers yesterday. *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the Russian newspaper, protested that Russia was being sidelined in ceremonies even though it was Soviet forces that liberated the camp. Its comments were echoed yesterday by Russian diplomats.

Beside the tumbled concrete blocks of the gas chambers of Auschwitz-Birkenau — which the Nazis had blown up to try to hide the murders — more than 1,000 people gathered. Prayers rang out in Hebrew, Yiddish, Polish, English and German.

A handful of gypsies, 21,000 of whom died in Auschwitz, joined the procession of 15,000 on the route to the camp.

Mr Walesa — who has been trying for three years as head of state to counter accusations that he is anti-Semitic — made a speech at Cracow University yesterday pleading for intellectuals and politicians to resist the kind of authoritarianism that led ultimately to the concentration camp. "Books are burned first, then the authors of those books are imprisoned and then people are murdered. Such was — and still is — the logic of each inhuman system."

Later last night Mr Walesa met other Nobel Peace laureates and representatives of 27 countries and finalised the peace appeal to be read during the main ceremony today. Mr Wiesel and Shevach Weiss, Speaker of the Knesset, said they agreed that the peace appeal would acknowledge that Jews were the main target of the Nazi genocide plan symbolised by Auschwitz.

Ninety per cent of the 1.5 million people systematically slaughtered from 1940-45 at the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp were Jewish. More than half the victims were Polish citizens.

But despite the efforts to bridge the Polish-Jewish cultures, friction was the order of the day. Both Poles and Jews claim Auschwitz as a site of their martyrdom. Jewish critics say that Poles tolerated the persecution of the Jews and even fed the hostile climate. Poles say that there were limits to how much they could do under the brutal rule of the Nazis but point out that many Polish families sheltered and saved Jews.

Stalinia cover-up, page 8



Wiesel hugs Shevach Weiss, speaker of the Knesset

'God of forgiveness, do not forgive'

The Nobel Prize-winner Elie Wiesel, who was in Auschwitz as a child, said in his address at yesterday's unofficial ceremony commemorating the camp's liberation:

"Although we know that God is merciful, please God do not have mercy on those who have created this place. God of forgiveness, do not forgive those murderers of Jewish children here."

Do not forgive the murderers and their accomplices. Those who have been here...remember the nocturnal processions of children and more children and more children, frightened, quiet, so quiet and so beautiful.

If we could simply look at one, our heart would break. Did it not break the heart of

the murderers? God, merciful God, do not have mercy on those who had no mercy on Jewish children.

Naturally, we know that there is no collective guilt. Only the guilty were guilty. Their children are children. So children all over the world, remember the Jewish children.

And if you remember, as we try to remember, then, as you just heard, hope is possible that because of our memory, thanks to our Jewish memory, a better world might be built in which children could be happy...smiling, singing, taking each other's hands and saying to each other: 'Well, another morning, another day. Another morning, another day, for human-kind.'



Eric Cantona leaves his home at Boothstown, Greater Manchester yesterday

Cantona faces suspension which could ruin his career

BY JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

ERIC CANTONA, the Manchester United player and enfant terrible of football, was charged yesterday by the Football Association with bringing the game into disrepute following his assault on a Crystal Palace fan.

Cantona seems certain to be dropped from the French national team and stripped of its captaincy. He also faces possible criminal charges for the incident. The attack is also expected to end his career at United, whom he has helped win two Premiership titles and the FA Cup.

On another day of turmoil for the national game, the FA acted swiftly, first condemning the televised incident of Cantona attacking a spectator at Selhurst Park on Wednesday night and then formally charging him with "misconduct that has brought the game into disrepute". He has been given 14 days to respond to the charges.

Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, described the touch-line fracas, in which Paul Ince, the Manchester United captain, also became involved as "a stain on our game. If any offence is proved, the player is bound to face a severe punishment."

Mr Kelly described the incident as bringing "shame on those involved and worst of all on the game itself. We especially deplore the appalling example set to young supporters, who are the game's future. It is our intention to do everything in our power to prevent such a disgraceful event happening again."

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, spoke to both Cantona and Ince yesterday, as the English champions began their own inquest ahead of an extraordinary board meeting.

Cantona, 28, the flawed genius of United, has com-

bined a volcanic temperament with superb ability. However, everyone was amazed at his action after being sent off for kicking at Richard Shaw, of Crystal Palace, four minutes after half-time in the 1-1 draw at Selhurst Park.

He was so upset by the abuse shouted at him by the Palace fans that he jumped over the barrier at the foot of the stand, launching an aerial kick and then a punch at one supporter. In the mêlée that followed, Ince became involved and the police confirmed yesterday they were investigating a separate complaint against the England international midfielder.

Michael Pickens, a friend of Matthew Simmonds, who was attacked by Cantona, said

INSIDE

United's crisis 3
Flawed philosopher 14
Rob Hughes 36
David Miller 40

yesterday that his fellow Palace supporter had told him to go back to France and had made a derisory gesture. He said that Simmonds had received a gash in the chest in Cantona's attack.

Claude Simonet, the president of the French Football Federation, said: "Unfortunately I think Cantona will have to be taken off the French team. Such behaviour is not compatible with the example a high-level sportsman like Cantona should set."

Gary Lineker, the former England captain, forecast: "He is going to get a long ban. In previous incidents, where he has had a long ban, he has walked out of French football. It remains to be seen whether he walks out of English football."

More snow predicted

Weathermen predicted more blizzards last night after heavy snow falls in the north of England left at least four people dead and much of the region at a standstill. Hundreds of motorists were forced to take refuge in whatever shelter they could find. More than 14 inches fell in a few hours, as commuters were leaving for home. At its height, over 5,000 vehicles were stranded on the M62.

Page 3
Forecast, page 20

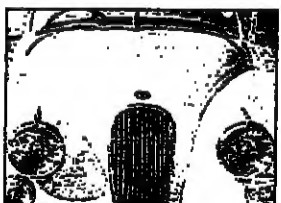
Times man Heren dies aged 75

Louis Heren, a former deputy editor of *The Times* who as a foreign correspondent covered some of the world's most dramatic stories for more than 24 years, died yesterday, aged 75. He joined the paper in 1933 as a messenger.

Obituary, page 19

THE TIMES

30p ON SATURDAY



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WEEKEND
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Poll rejects devolution proposals

BY PETER RIDDELL

THE public opposes Labour's proposals for creating regional assemblies in England, which are central to the party's plans for Scottish and Welsh devolution. An increasing number of people, however, favour constitutional reform, according to a new MORI poll for *The Times*.

The number of people who think Parliament works well has dropped from 59 to 37 per cent over the past four years, while the percentage that believes it works badly has risen from 16 to 38. This will reinforce the calls for reform at a time when the Nolan enquiry into standards of public conduct is considering proposals for tightening rules on MPs' outside interests.

Commentary, page 9

Cricket's day of winning nostalgia fetches £295,000

BY JOE JOSEPH

EVEN the chap from Lord's turned up at the Phillips auction rooms in London's Bond Street yesterday to plunder the lifetime collection of cricket memorabilia amassed by a Birmingham dentist called Hal Cohen. It is arguably the finest trove of its kind to come on the market in 30 years.

Lot 115, a pencil and gouache picture called "In the Pavilion Enclosure" by Sir Robert Ponsonby Staples, has gone home to Lord's," said Richard Madely, auctioneer for the sale. "It came from the Lord's collection in the first place. I am not sure how it

left, but it slipped out in the 1930s and came into Hal's collection." It went for £14,950 [the highest single price achieved [all prices include premium] and is heading back to the Museum at Lord's.

"So are a Spy watercolour of Pelham Warner and a watercolour of Alfred Lyttleton by Carlo Pellegrini, who signed his cartoons 'Ape'. They went for £7,130 each. What gave me particular delight was that the chairman of Sotheby's, Henry Wyndham, was here bidding for them: his evening job is chairman of the works of arts committee for the MCC."

Harold Alfred Cohen began collecting when he was

18 and was still collecting up to his death last summer at the age of 90. Even his wife's stipulation that Hal's collection must be confined to one room did not stop it ballooning into one of the most prized in private hands. Yesterday's 200-strong crowd crammed into the London saleroom was swelled by scores of telephone bidders.

"We had a bidder on the phone from Australia desperate for a Victorian wall file with a printed half-length figure of W.G. Grace on it," Mr Madely added. "He was not going to let anyone else have it. The estimate was £40-£60. He ended up paying nearly £750 for it. Plus the cost

of the phone call. What you've seen here is true cricketing enthusiasts buying for themselves. I'd say 95 per cent of what we've sold is going into private collections."

Cohen's copy of the first edition of *Wisden*, published in 1864, fetched £3,105. Any one with about £40,000 to spare could have gone home with his entire collection of *Wisden* running from 1864 to 1983: it was split into 43 lots.

The seven-hour sale, during which bidders were sustained with tea and cucumber sandwiches, totalled £295,860 (including premium), more than double the Phillips estimate and a world record for a cricket sale.



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INDEX	
Arts	31-33
Births, marriages, deaths	18
Court and Social	15
Intelect	25-29
Law	30
TV & Radio	38-39

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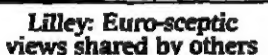


Pale with anger, Campbell
Savours strode through the
spectators towards the gate.
Hisses filled the air but it was
noticeable that as he ap-
proached the Tory yobbos the
hisses stopped.
Nobody barracked. No-
body tipped their tea on him.
He turned for one last smoul-
dering glance around the
stadium, one curt nod at
Madam Ref, and stalked out.
To allow both sides to recov-
er, the Chair allowed two
minutes' extra time.
Ooh, aah, Campbell
Savours!

Clause Four received a serious setback yesterday when it emerged that Scottish constituencies are lining up to oppose him. As the Labour leader launched his nationwide road show to convince party members back home, it was disclosed that all 26 of its resolutions on the issue submitted to the Scottish party conference are against constitutional change.

The Labour leader faces a rough ride when he addresses the conference in Inverness March 10, three days before the National Executive debates the new wording Clause Four.

Most of the resolution pointedly support the decision narrowly taken at the party conference last October to retain Clause Four. They



While it is probable that the unions, who will have 70 per cent of the vote at a special conference on April 29, will deliver a victory for Mr Blain, the Labour leader made clear that was not enough. He said: "I believe we will win. It is extremely important that we get the party members behind this."

BARCLAYS

sible. "So far the British Government has been dragging its feet. They have been stalling the process."

He also criticised the campaign to win freedom for Private Clegg, the Parachute Regiment soldier convicted of murdering Karen Reilly, 18, who joyriders crashed through a checkpoint in West Belfast in September 1990. He said that he fully expected Miss Reilly to be convicted posthumously of causing the life sentence passed on Private Clegg. In his view the young woman had like "hundreds of others been summarily executed by British soldiers."

John Sailer told MPs yesterday that judicial review that could lead to Clegg's early release were under way. "The proper procedures that I outlined at length on Tuesday have now begun," he said in reply to frosty demands for the soldier's release.

□ Sir Hugh Annesley, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, said yesterday that he believed the IRA leadership remained committed to the peace process after reviewing its ceasefire recently in his first newspaper interview since the ceasefire last September. He told the *Irish News* that he was "just a balance optimistic" that peace would hold.

extended to all parliamentary candidates," he said. There was also a strong case for drawing up a code of conduct "based on the principle that service in Parliament is a public service".

Alan Jinkinson and Rodney Bickerstaffe, representing Unison, Britain's largest trade union, told the inquiry that union sponsorship of MPs was for the constituency party, not the MP.

Mr Jinkinson said that trade unions sponsored 30 MPs. The arrangements included £600 a year to each constituency, an average of £1,500 to help meet election expenses and the cost of full-time researchers, which could be up to £25,000 a year. Mr Jinkinson said the money bought "wider contacts with the House and approaches to all Ministers".

Flood warning follows night of death and delay with rush-hour roads choked by fierce blizzards

Met Office blamed after snow traps thousands of cars

By Robin Young and Paul Wilkinson

WEATHER forecasters were blamed yesterday for disruption that paralysed much of northern England after unexpected heavy snow caught thousands of drivers on their way home from work and left at least four people dead.

Blizzards in the North coincided with extensive flooding in southern England, which forecasters said may get worse today.

An blanket of snow 14

inches deep in places began descending on Yorkshire and parts of Lancashire on Tuesday evening, 12 hours earlier than predicted. John Charlton, Sheffield council's assistant works director, said: "The weather forecast was wrong and the snow arrived at rush hour. The gritters went straight out but could not get round and ended up stuck in the traffic."

An AA spokesman in Leeds

said: "The snow was not unexpected but the amount that fell was and it fell at a most crucial time. It turned everything into gridlock. People setting off at 6pm were either getting home at midnight or not at all."

The Meteorological Office admitted its prediction had been out but said: "The real problem was that the rain turned to snow at a much lower level than we had expected. We did issue a general warning for the North East at 10am on Wednesday and an urgent flash at 5.30pm."

The fatalities included Glyn Metcalfe, 50, an architect from Halifax, who collapsed and died after trying to help other drivers to move their cars. Gordon Smith, 60, was found in Halifax after collapsing in the street as he attempted to walk home. One motorist who abandoned his vehicle at Rawdon, near Leeds, was found lying in the road with his car keys clutched in his hand. A fourth victim was found at a roundabout near Morley, Leeds.

Thousands of abandoned cars and lorries clogged motorways and main roads. More than 5,000 drivers were estimated to have been stuck on the M62 overnight. The AA rescued a man and his seven-year-old daughter who had spent 12 hours stranded near Rishworth Moor. A baby, Kelly Marie Harland, was delivered by paramedics who



Heavy snow forced many drivers to abandon their cars in Bradford, where 600 people spent the night in the cathedral after being stranded

walked a mile to reach a house in which her parents had taken shelter after their car was stranded on the 14-mile journey from Sicklinghall to Harrogate District Hospital.

Town halls and civic centres were opened to provide emergency overnight accommodation for stranded motorists. Bradford Cathedral was turned into an overnight camp for 600 stranded drivers. A class of 36 nine and ten-year-olds from Burtonwood Prima-

ry School, Warrington, spent the night with six members of staff at the Eureka children's museum, Halifax.

Gritters, rescue vehicles and emergency services worked through the night to reopen the motorway at 7am. West Yorkshire Police broadcast warnings yesterday that vehicles not recovered by 3pm would be towed away and their owners charged.

Further south many areas were disrupted by heavy rain.

In Suffolk, Simon Edwards, 21, was rescued from a ditch in which floodwater was rising above his chest after he used a garden rake to reach a jacket containing his mobile telephone. The village of Peasmarsh was flooded for the second time in seven months. Don Sturmer, a sheep farmer, said the second flood had swept away repairs costing £28,000 which he had only just completed.

Mid Wales had almost 24

hours of non-stop rain. The Dovey Bridge, carrying the A487 between mid and North Wales was blocked by deep floodwater at Machynlleth, Powys, and amber flood alerts were in force for the Dovey, the Wye and the Usk. Heavy rain across the Midlands brought flooding to scores of villages in Nottinghamshire. In Kent floodwaters were waist-high in some areas.

The London Weather Centre last night said there would

be more blizzards on northern hills but after a frosty night it would be wet and windy today, becoming mild by evening. "The main weather hazard now is from rain and flooding," a spokesman said. Last year was the third or fourth warmest since records began in 1861, the Meteorological Office said yesterday.

Floods hit Germany, page 10
Diary, page 16
Forecast, page 22

Audience stranded in a real winter's tale

LEEDS town hall became an emergency shelter on Wednesday night for an audience of 300 who had, appropriately, just finished watching the world premiere of *The Winter Guest*.

The play, directed by Alan Rickman, concerns a snow-bound community. A spokesman for the theatre said: "The stars were stranded like everyone else, and they were wonderful in the way they mucked in."

Nichola McAuliffe, from the television sitcom *Surgical Spirit*, helped with the washing up and played West End hits on a piano until 3am. Prunella Scales, who played Sybil Fawcett in *Fawlty Towers*, served hot soup, and Emma Thompson's mother, Phyllida Law, helped to set



Prunella Scales helped to serve hot soup

up camp beds for the night. The spokesman said: "It was uncanny how people found that events outside exactly paralleled the show they had just been watching."

Man who strangled his wife is freed

By Gillian Bowditch
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A MAN aged 74 who strangled his alcoholic wife walked free from the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday in spite of the fact that he had killed her deliberately.

The court was told that David McLeish, from Glasgow, had "been through hell" at the hands of his 72-year-old wife Dorothy. The couple would have celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in three years' time.

McLeish was put on probation for three years after admitting culpable homicide. He had been charged with murder but the Crown accepted a plea to the reduced charge after hearing that he was suffering from the onset of senile dementia.

Lord Milligan told McLeish it was extremely rare for the perpetrator of an apparently deliberate killing not to receive a custodial sentence. He said the reason a jail sentence had not been imposed was because of his mental state at the time of the killing.

The court was told that Mrs McLeish had been an alcoholic since her husband retired as a newsagent 11 years ago and had been abusive and difficult throughout that period. She had been drinking on September 7 last year and had ordered her husband out of their two-bedroom flat. Her husband went into a bedroom to try and get some peace, but she followed him.

He grabbed her by the throat and told her: "I am going to murder you." Mrs McLeish returned to her chair in the living room. Soon after, her husband came into the room with a cord and strangled her. He then telephoned the police and confessed.

French say dealers smuggled key Tiffany vase to US

By Dalva Albergie, Arts Correspondent

THE French are accusing a group of British dealers of smuggling an important Tiffany vase to New York, where it will be sold by Christie's today. The French National Museums, the umbrella organisation for the national collections, and French Customs are concerned that French law has been flouted.

The vase is a magnificent example of Japanese metalwork with which Tiffany came to prominence at the Paris Exposition of 1878. Export licences are required for works of such importance.

A museum spokesman said that it was smuggled out not once but twice - from Paris to London, and then from London to New York. It is believed to have been purchased by a consortium of three dealers at a Paris auction house last May.

Under French law, introduced in 1992, there are 14 categories for works of art, from archaeological artefacts to paintings. Each has a minimum value over which an export licence is required. The minimum level for objects of art such as the Tiffany vase is about 350,000 francs. The vase was bought for almost double that.

The French National Museums spokesman said: "This is far above the limit. There is no question that an object like this should not have left Europe without a licence. We just want French law to be honoured."

Olivier Duguet, inspector of the French Customs Investigations Service in Paris, explained that as the purchasers of the Tiffany vase had paid for it, and as the national museums did not wish to take the matter further, the case was closed. He called for auctioneers and galleries to

take greater responsibility for informing buyers about export laws.

However, Michael Whiteaway, a London dealer in 19th-century decorative arts, said: "This is a key piece, a moment in time, a moment in design history. I don't think Christie's should sell it. It encourages others to do the same. It's wrong to sell it." Jeanne



The Tiffany vase that is to be sold today

Sloane, Christie's New York specialist in American silver, said that the buyers were not advised correctly: "The laws are complicated. Our understanding is that it was an innocent mistake." A Christie's spokeswoman added: "The Customs issues have been completely settled and so the sale can go ahead."

The vase is estimated to fetch between \$150,000 and \$250,000 at the New York sale.

Lecturer 'wanted to kill poisoner'

By Our Scotland Correspondent

A UNIVERSITY lecturer accused of attempting to murder his wife by lacing her gin and tonic with the drug atropine told police that he sometimes found his wife "alarming" and tried to avoid her by working late.

Paul Agutter said his wife Alexandra "sometimes has me tearing my hair". He told police he would like to kill the poisoner who tried to murder his wife. During a police interview, he broke down and wept, saying: "If I got hold of the blighter I would kill him on the spot."

Mr Agutter, 48, a biochemistry lecturer from Lothian, denies attempting to murder his wife and an 11-year-old girl by giving them glasses of gin and tonic laced with atropine, a derivative of deadly nightshade. He also denies endangering the life of eight other people who drank spiked tonic water which he is alleged to have left on shelves in a Safeway supermarket.

The High Court in Edinburgh heard a taped interview with police in which Mr Agutter says that his wife was "hard working, highly intelligent and very organised. I regard her very highly". He said he had told her about his lover Carole Bonsall, who was one of his students. He claimed she had invited him out for a drink as a thank-you for coaching her through examinations and told police he wanted to marry her.

He said his wife also had a lover but he did not think that was any of his business. He told police that although he had access to the poison at work, he had not used it in an experiment for three years. The trial continues.

Director in court over fishing deaths

A COMPANY director appeared before magistrates yesterday accused of the manslaughter of six people after the fishing boat *Pescado* sank off Cornwall in 1991. Joseph O'Connor, 43, a director of Guideday, which owned the Plymouth-based sculler, was bailed to reappear at court in Plymouth next month.

O'Connor, of Plymouth, was accused of the unlawful killing of five men and a woman between February 24, 1991, and March 9, 1991. They died when the 70ft vessel sank 15 miles off Falmouth. He also

faces two charges of knowingly using forged documents relating to work on the *Pescado*'s engine.

O'Connor, Guideday and Alan Ayres, 55, an investor in Guideday, faced a further charge of sending the *Pescado* to sea in an unfit mechanical condition. It was also alleged that the boat did not have a sufficient number of qualified officers.

The company was not represented in court and the case was adjourned until Tuesday, February 28. Both men were granted unconditional bail. The charges

followed an investigation by Devon and Cornwall Police, who brought in a salvage firm to raise the trawler in September 1993.

The crew members who died were the ship's cook, Jo Ann Thomas, 23, from Plymouth; skipper Peter Birley, 32, from Fleetwood, Lancashire; first mate Neil Curry, 27, from the Outer Hebrides, who was Miss Thomas's fiancé; Steven Hardy, 30, from Plymouth; Sean Kelly, 17, from Brixham, Devon, and Adrian Flynn, 21, from Lincoln.

Getty marries his 'inspiration'

THE American philanthropist John Paul Getty II has married his longtime companion Victoria Holdsworth, a 43-year-old former model (Emma Wilkins writes). The couple, who have known each other for more than 15 years, were married in Barbados just after Christmas. Mr Getty's office said yesterday.

Ms Holdsworth, who once lived in a £7-a-week bedsit in Bromley, south London, is credited with helping Mr Getty, 62, to recover from a succession of illnesses that afflicted him in the 1980s.

In a rare interview Mr Getty said that he owed his



Victoria Holdsworth and John Paul Getty II

recovery from severe back injuries and phlebitis (inflammation of the walls of a vein) to the support of Ms Holdsworth.

"I owe everything to Victoria. She has been my

inspiration." Mr Getty, whose beneficiaries include the National Gallery, Lord's cricket ground and the consortium of art galleries that fought to keep Canova's *Three Graces* in Britain.

was virtually excluded from the will of his father, the oil magnate John Paul Getty senior. His wealth, estimated at £1,200 million, was inherited from his grandmother, Sarah Getty.

Ms Holdsworth first met Mr Getty in Rome in the 1970s, began her modelling career as the SR toothpaste girl who dived out of a block of ice. She went on to model for Nivea.

The couple, who plan to live in Mayfair and at Worsley Park, Mr Getty's 3,000-acre estate in Buckinghamshire, have each been married twice before. Ms Holdsworth has two sons aged 9 and 11.

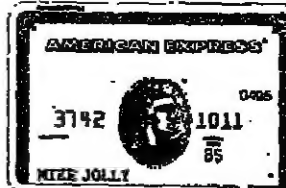
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Pupil threatened classmate with sawn-off shotgun

By ROBIN YOUNG

A BOY took a sawn-off shotgun to school to ward off bullies, a court was told yesterday. The loaded gun was grabbed by a classmate and pointed at another pupil's head outside the Farlingaye High School in Woodbridge, Suffolk, magistrates were told.

No shots were fired and the gun was later confiscated by teachers but three pupils were warned yesterday by the chairman of the bench at Ipswich Youth Court that she was considering custodial sentences because their actions had been so dangerous.

Kate Stephenson, for the prosecution, said a 15-year-old boy had broken into his

father's guncase to steal the gun and had used a hacksaw to shorten the barrels "because sixth formers had been picking on him and he thought the sight of the shotgun would frighten them off".

After school ended, he and two friends walked home with the gun, which was loaded with one cartridge. One of the boy's friends aimed it at the head of a fourth pupil and told him to run away, Miss Stephenson said.

The same friend then offered to buy the gun and kept it in his garden shed overnight before taking it back to school the next day. Teachers found the gun in his school locker

after being tipped off by another pupil.

The boy who took his father's gun admitted illegally shortening the barrels. He and his two friends, also aged 15, admitted having the gun and ammunition without authority in a public place.

The case was adjourned for sentencing until March 1 but Mrs Hunt told the boys: "It would seem that the charges before us are so serious that only a sentence in custody will be justified."

"To take a gun into school with appropriate ammunition is a particularly dangerous thing. It appears that you were actually prepared to use the weapon as a threat."

The boy who first took the gun to school has been expelled. The two other accused boys were suspended but have since been allowed to return.

Education officers have launched an inquiry after it was claimed that a six-year-old boy was attacked with a knife by a classmate in the school playground (Kathryn Knight writes).

Parents of the alleged victim complained to the headmistress of Hill View First School in Bournemouth, Dorset. They claim that their son was sent home with a cut on his chin after a classmate held a knife against his throat.

Terry House, chairman of the school governors, said an inquiry had begun but there was no evidence yet a knife had been brought in.

Teachers fearful over violence rise

By BEN PRESTON

TEACHING unions are increasingly alarmed at suggestions that the number of violent incidents at schools and assaults on staff is rising.

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said communities would have to take responsibility to ensure schools did not become violent, fearful places. "We risk being drawn down a path that leads to teachers needing panic buttons," The National Association of Schoolmasters

and Union of Women Teachers said it was a matter of time before a teacher was killed. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary, said: "It is depressing that violent incidents are now commonplace in primary schools and even in nurseries."

The National Union of Teachers said schools required better security to protect pupils and staff, "but we do not want to take the American path of putting metal detectors at the front door."

Grammar schools fill best City posts

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

GRAMMAR schools have overtaken independents as the main training ground for the chief executives of Britain's top companies, according to City research published yesterday.

A survey of the leading 300 firms listed by *The Director* magazine found that 52 per cent of chief executives attended grammar schools, compared with 28 per cent who were educated in the independent sector.

Only 5 per cent had been to comprehensives or secondary moderns.

Survey of the top 300 companies, Robin Russell and Partners (25 Wimpole Street, London W1M 7AD; £15)

Primary teaching methods criticised

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PRIMARY schools must abandon their hostility towards tried and tested teaching methods and give more lessons to whole classes, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector said last night.

Christopher Woodhead criticised the widespread insistence that children should work in groups on different activities at their own speed. He said there was clear evidence that it was easier for teachers to explain new material and challenge and stimulate pupils if they taught whole classes.

Mr Woodhead, as disclosed in *The Times* on Monday, urged the profession to open its mind to change. He told the first Office for Standards in Education annual lecture that teachers should stop taking "refuge in ideological certainties" in response to Govern-

ment reforms. Mr Woodhead said ways had to be found to make the professional culture "more open-minded, more sceptical of the received wisdom, less eager to take refuge in simplistic and untenable dichotomies".

He appealed for renewed emphasis on formal instruction with specialist teachers imparting knowledge and facts rather than hoping children picked up skills after being encouraged to learn for themselves.

Mr Woodhead said the purpose of education was to provide young people with the skills that would be needed in adult working life, a training in morality and taste. He questioned whether the third aim of ensuring that young children studied the "best of what has been thought and said" was secure.



Christian Lacroix, surrounded by his models, acknowledges a standing ovation after a triumphant show.

Lacroix closes season in style

By A STAFF REPORTER

CHRISTIAN Lacroix's show in Paris yesterday brought this season's collections to an end with a bang. The designer, who came to fame in the mid-1980s, presented one of his most sensational collections. Typically, Lacroix combined the frivolous and the fabulous but with an unfamiliar restraint.

A shocking pink slip dress was covered with a shadow of black geometric. Faded floral prints and antique lace were favourites with the designer. After dark, Lacroix really shone, presenting outrageous *fin de siècle* halcyons that emphasised hourglass figures.

But the highlight was a brilliant corseted design in red, pink and orange satin, wrapped in a veil of scarlet tulle. At the end, Lacroix's appearance on the catwalk prompted a thunderous ovation. It was the ultimate grand finale to this season's haute couture shows.



A flamenco sheath with tiers of chantilly



A satin bridal gown with draped bustier

Women accuse Army of sex bias in redundancy pay-offs

By A STAFF REPORTER

THREE servicewomen who took voluntary redundancy from the Army last year were paid less compensation than their male counterparts, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday. Inga Thompson, 27, Catherine Hollingsworth, 27, and Christine Dickinson, who each served in the Army for more than eight years, are claiming compensation totalling nearly £20,000.

The three, who accepted voluntary redundancy last year under the Options For Change cuts, say they received

£6,000 less than men with the same ranks and length of service. The Ministry of Defence could face a total bill for £300,000 if it loses. The Equal Opportunities Commission said it believed 50 other former servicewomen could make similar claims.

Dinah Rose, representing the women, told the tribunal in Southampton that they were allowed to sign up only for three-year contracts when they joined the Army. Men who enlisted at the same time

could sign up for nine years, putting them on higher pay and pension scales. Miss Rose said: "The women were employed on different terms to the men and as a result they received lower redundancy payments purely on the basis of their sex."

Mrs Thompson, of Aldershot, and Miss Hollingsworth, of Newbury, reached the rank of lance corporal. Mrs Dickinson, of Aldershot, was a corporal. The hearing was adjourned for a date to be set for the full tribunal.

Spy who never was is no longer here

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A RUSSIAN reported to be an intelligence officer seeking to defect to Britain has left the country. The Foreign Office insisted that he was not a spy but an "official" from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The Foreign Office and security sources dismissed reports that Firat Djabozov, 34, was a colonel in the GRU, the Russian military intelligence service. He was said to have been born in Azerbaijan.

The Foreign Office said: "A man of this name claiming to be an official from the Interna-

tional Committee of the Red Cross arrived in the United Kingdom over the weekend without a visa seeking medical treatment and was questioned by the authorities. He made no request for asylum. He has since left the country." Russia's foreign intelligence service said nothing was known about the reported defection of a senior military officer.

The ICRC in Geneva said it had a 34-year-old Russian employee called Fikret Jabarov who had been taken on in Azerbaijan but he left at the end of last month.

RAF top brass stay away from Dresden event

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE RAF's most senior officers are to stay away from next month's ceremonies marking the fiftieth anniversary of the bombing of Dresden because of the sensitivity of the event.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff, will not be attending the anniversary. The British military will be represented by Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the Defence Staff. The Duke of Kent will represent the Queen. The Ministry of Defence said: "It was not thought that the light blue uniform would be a good idea in the circumstances."

The RAF fears that the fiftieth anniversary of the bombing raids on the German city could provoke new criticism of the operation. However, Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beetham, president of the Bomber Command Association, said: "Although it is utterly outrageous, we have suffered these attacks for so long we are just about immune to them."

RAF officers are also concerned that the RAF's involvement in the Dresden bombing has been exaggerated over the years. Data collected by the Air Historical Branch from original sources show that the choice of Dresden was made by the Allied joint chiefs of staff rather than by Sir Arthur Bomber Harris, chief of Bomber Command, as so often claimed. A total of 796 Lancasters and nine Mosquitos dropped 1,475 tons of high

explosive and 1,182 tons of incendiary bombs on February 13, 1945, creating a firestorm that destroyed the city. However, RAF sources said it was often forgotten that there was only one RAF strike, which was then followed by three raids by the US Air Force.

Although some post-war estimates put the number of deaths at 30,000 to 200,000, contemporary and official German records quoted 18,375 dead and 2,212 seriously injured with the final toll expected to reach 25,000. Much has been made about the timing of the attack as the end of the war was in sight. However, MoD officials said the Allies had not yet crossed the Rhine and the Germans were still fighting tenaciously. Almost 500 V2 rockets also fell on Britain in February and March 1945.

In a letter dated March 29, 1945, Sir Arthur Harris said Dresden was a mass of munition works, an intact government centre and a key transportation point to the East. "It is now none of those things," he wrote. He said attacks on cities were intolerable unless strategically justified. But he insisted they were justified because they shortened the war and preserved the lives of Allied soldiers.

Sir Michael Beetham said: "It may sound cynical but Dresden was just another target. It was a devastating blow to German morale and contributed to Hitler's defeat."



Sgt Allan Kennedy with the Spas shotgun

Police put deadly haul on display

NORTHUMBRIA police have declared a four-week weapons amnesty, the first in seven years, after officers in one of the force's 19 divisions recovered 120 shotguns, rifles and revolvers, and 25 knives in the past three weeks.

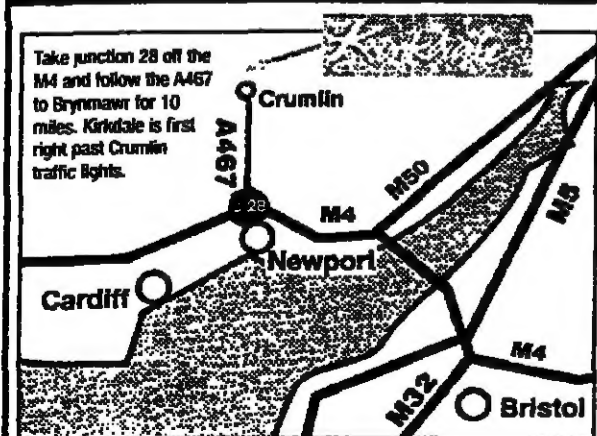
The most deadly item seized was an Italian Spas 12-bore semi-automatic shotgun, which can fire up to six rounds without reloading. It was designed for military use and cannot be held with a civilian licence because of the magazine capacity.

Northumbria chiefs put the array on display yesterday to encourage people to surrender their illegal weapons. Nearly 900 firearms and 57,000 rounds of ammunition were handed over and destroyed seven years ago.

Assistant chief constable Alan Oliver said: "There is an illegal arms trade operating and we are working hard to smash it but too many guns fall into the hands of criminals during the course of burglaries."

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Stamp dealer fined £30,000 for ten-year international fraud

BY ANDREW PIERCE

ONE of Britain's leading stamp dealers was fined £30,000 yesterday for masterminding an international fraud operation. Alan Wilson was given an 18-month jail sentence, suspended for two years, for tampering with stamps to enhance their value. Luton Crown Court was told. His sense of guilt eventually led him to confess his crime to police. Some of his forgeries, committed over a period of ten years, have become collectors' items.

Judge Rodwell, passing sentence, said: "You set yourself up as a stamp dealer and were doing perfectly well in that occupation when you decided to forge stamps and thereby increase their value tremendously. Being able to forge, you were able to enhance your position as a collector and dealer. Your legitimate trade grew as a result of your dishonest forgeries. It seems to me your motivation was arrogance."

Wilson co-operated with the police in tracking down all his forgeries and has compensat-

ed all his victims. Some took stamps from him rather than cash, such as his trust in the man whose dishonesty, the court was told, shocked the world of philately.

Wilson, 36, a bachelor, began stamp collecting after graduating from Warwick University with a degree in economics. He appeared for sentence yesterday after pleading guilty last week to four charges of obtaining money by deception. He asked for 86 offences of forgery and deception to be taken into account.

Ebrahim Mooney, for the prosecution, said that the case was "one of the major stamp frauds of modern times". He said that Wilson had breached the trust placed in him by "countless people in this country and worldwide".

Wilson, a noted authority on Machin stamps, the modern type bearing the Queen's head, ran his business from his flat in Luton. The court was told that he used a number of techniques to make ordinary stamps appear rarer, such as dyeing some and

changing the gum or the surface finish on others to make them appear part of a limited, trial print run.

He also transposed the stamps in everyday red booklets so that the covers did not match the contents, making them imperfect and more valuable. One booklet showed ten first class stamps on the cover but contained four 19p stamps and was sold for £1.250. Simplest of all was to dip stamps in a weak solution of ink to give them a blue effect and enhance their value.

Ann Cotcher, for the defence, said: "His career and reputation are in tatters. This was not done to make himself a millionaire. He never touched a penny of the money and has repaid everyone. He felt the need to unburden himself and gave every assistance to the police."

At the hearing last week, the defence said that Wilson had tried to take his life. After yesterday's hearing, Wilson said: "I want to put it all behind me. It was an unfortunate incident."



Josie Lawrence will play Helen of Troy and Katherine in *The Taming of the Shrew*

Curtain up on 6½-hour epic

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A 6½-HOUR staging of Goethe's *Faust* will be among ten productions in the Royal Shakespeare Company's forthcoming season. It will be directed by Michael Bogdanov and adapted by Howard Brentan, who is renowned for his versions of German classical plays.

The programme for the 1995-96 season was announced yesterday by Adrian Noble, artistic director of the RSC, who described it as one of the company's most exciting. It will include a produc-

tion of William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* involving the community in Stratford upon Avon and there will be a 20-week run at the Young Vic. It means the RSC will be operating six theatres nationwide.

Josie Lawrence will appear as Helen of Troy. She will also appear in *The Taming of the Shrew*, with which Gayle Edwards, the Australian director praised for her West End production of *St Joan*, will make her debut with the company.

Sir Peter Hall, founder-director of the RSC, is returning to the stage of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford with his first production of *Julius Caesar*. The cast will include John Nettles as Brutus and Christopher Benjamin in the title role.

Drama from this century will include a new production of John Osborne's *A Patriot For Me*, a portrayal of homosexuality banned in the 1960s by the Lord Chamberlain.

RSC rescues, page 31

Methodist seeks new links with Church of England

BY ROBIN BARNWELL

THE most senior figure in the Methodist Church has called on the Church of England to take the lead in bringing about unity between the two Churches.

The Rev Leslie Griffiths, President of the Methodist Conference, says in an article in this week's *Methodist Recorder*: "I believe that the Church of England has a key role to play. They must take a strong lead. They must make a generous offer. It's going to be an act of grace that cracks this one."

Talks between the two Churches, on possible renewed moves towards unity, are due to begin in March. Senior Methodist and Anglican churchmen are due to discuss the resolution passed by the General Purpose Committee of the Methodist Conference in March 1994. This calls for the Churches to consider whether they share a common goal of possible unity.

The Right Rev David Tustin, Bishop of Grimsby and Chairman of the Council for Christian Unity, who will lead the Anglican delegation at the talks in Hengrave Hall, Suffolk, said: "We are responding to the initiative that the Methodists addressed to us and which we have welcomed."

Efforts to unite the two churches were frustrated in 1969 when, after the Methodists had agreed to join, the Church Assembly of the Church of England narrowly failed to achieve the three-quarters majority vote needed to effect a union. Two other attempts in 1972 and 1984 also failed.

The Methodists are hoping that new common ground between the two Churches, particularly over women priests and strengthening grass-roots support, seen in the growing number of local ecumenical projects, will create a foundation for renewed talks.

Parents to sue over canoeing tragedy

The parents of the four teenagers who died in the Lyme Bay tragedy are to sue for compensation from the company responsible.

The families of Rachel Walker, Simon Dunne and Claire Langley, all 16, and Dean Sayer, 17, are claiming against Active Learning and Leisure Ltd who were found guilty of corporate manslaughter in December. The company has stopped trading.

Coroner's plea

An inquest into the death of Rikki Neave, 6, was opened and adjourned in Peterborough. Gordon Ryall, the coroner, urged the public to help police to catch the boy's killer.

Sex case priest

Father Daniel John Curran, 44, of Ballymena, Co Antrim, who is accused of 18 sex offences against young boys, was remanded on bail by Downpatrick magistrates.

Student dies

Christopher Squires, 21, a student at Hallam University, Sheffield, died after stabbing himself through the heart in front of his girlfriend after an argument, it was disclosed.

Out of time

Ian Horwood, accused of having 192 birds' eggs, walked free after Beaconsfield magistrates were told the case was outside the six-month time limit for summary offences.

Navy enlists sub

The Royal Navy has accepted its second Trident ballistic missile submarine, HMS Victorious. The 16,000-tonne vessel will become operational at the end of the year.

Swan shot dead

A swan has died after being shot through the eye and skull with a shotgun. The cob lived with its mate at Ninesprings wildlife sanctuary in Yeovil, Somerset.

Bread goes multinational

BY EMMA MURRAY

THE range of bread in shops is widening week by week, with Irish soda, Italian ciabatta and Russian rye jostling for space with sliced white.

Marks and Spencer has a sunflower and honey loaf at 89p. Safeway a Swiss-style wholegrain at 79p and Irish soda at 95p for a 475gm loaf. Tesco a granary malted loaf at 74p. A speciality bread such as sourdough loaves can be bought at Neale's Yard in London at about £2 for half a loaf. Harrods has a yeast-free Poilane loaf, imported from France, at £8.

There is plenty of white fish on the slab at the moment,

WEEKEND SHOPPING

with cod and haddock fillets at about £3 a lb. Advertised best buys include:

Asda: shin stewing steak, £1.49 a lb; kipper fillet, 95p a lb; broccoli, 39p a lb.

Budgens: white potatoes, 79p for 2kg; fresh beef minced steak, £1.59 a lb.

Harrods: English oysters, £1 each; baby Colchester cheese, £9.30 each; baby Appleby Cheshire cheese, £12.60 each.

Iceland: Bowyer's half-fat sausages, £1.79 for 20; grade A chicken, £1.39 each; apple or cherry pies 74p each.

M & S: sweetcure gammon steaks, £2.99 for 6; baby

cherry tomatoes, 99p a pack; large custard tart, 99p.

Safeway: yoghurt selection, £2.09 for 12; mature reduced fat cheese, £1.69 a lb; clementines, 49p a lb; large honeydew melons, £1.19.

Sainsbury: parsnips, 45p a lb; kiwifruit, 10p each; Irish mature cheddar, £1.95, 11oz pack; fresh orange juice, £1.59 a litre.

Somerfield: haddock fillet, £1.68 a lb; choice of dips, £1.49 for 4; English mild white cheddar, 97p a lb.

Tesco: sirloin steak, £3.99 a lb; boneless leg of pork, £1.09 a lb; whole mackerel, 69p a lb; 4oz roast ham, 99p.

Waitrose: pork and apple sausages, £1.89 a lb; Cox apples, 99p for 1.25kg; Chinese stir-fry, 99p for 325g.

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Sky TV would like to congratulate Jeremy Thompson's Gold Medal for best news reporter and Sky's Silver Medal for coverage of Rwanda.

Nurse who removed appendix keeps job and praises surgeon

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE HOSPITAL nurse who removed a patient's appendix in an operation for which she had no formal training is to keep her job. At a news conference yesterday after the announcement she praised the surgeon involved but refused to say why she used a scalpel in breach of guidelines.

Valerie Tomlinson, 53, a theatre sister, was given a final written warning by the Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust after a disciplinary hearing last week. The case sparked a national debate about the capacity of nurses to take over functions traditionally restricted to doctors.

The trust said she had carried out three elements of the operation at Treliske Hospital in Truro, Cornwall. She made the first incision in the patient and, after the appendix was located and prepared by Tahir Bhatti, the surgeon, she cut it off. Mr Bhatti completed the operation and Mrs Tomlinson closed the wound.

Brian Milstead, chief executive of the trust, said Mr Bhatti was fully responsible for the

operation, performed on December 19, and carried out the most difficult elements of it. He closely supervised Mrs Tomlinson, who was acting as his first assistant. However, an investigation had disclosed that she had breached guidelines of the National Association of Theatre Nurses. The male patient had been told about what happened and had not complained, he said.

Mrs Tomlinson is to be relieved of her theatre duties while having retraining. She will be assessed before returning to her post. Disciplinary action against Mr Bhatti, who remains on paid leave, will be decided by the South and West Regional Health Authority.

Mr Milstead said Mrs Tomlinson had been in theatre on many occasions and had seen many hundreds of such operations. She felt confident in what she was doing and that Mr Bhatti was in control.

Afterwards, Mrs Tomlinson, a nurse for more than 30 years, said she was "very relieved at what I think is a fair decision". She had received

letters and telephone calls of support from across the country and abroad, she said. What happened in the operating theatre took place "as a result of mutual trust and understanding" between her and Mr Bhatti. "He is a very pleasant person and a very competent surgeon," she added.

The Royal College of Nursing said it was delighted with the outcome. A spokeswoman said the case had sparked a valuable debate about the future of nursing. "You can train anyone to do any single task better than someone who only does it occasionally. The mistake was that they pushed back the boundaries in an ad hoc way," she said.

Professor Sir Norman Browne, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, said operations should not be carried out by staff lacking the proper training and qualifications.

He told BBC Radio 4 that though there were procedures that theatre nurses could perform to assist a surgeon during an operation, the doctor should always be in control.



Mrs Tomlinson after the announcement yesterday that she is to keep her job

Three-year gap in checks for breast cancer 'too long'

By OUR HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN are not being protected against breast cancer by the national breast screening programme because the three-year gap between X-ray examinations is too long, researchers say.

So many are developing cancer in the three-year interval that the number detected at the second screen is almost the same as if the women had never been screened.

Researchers from Manchester who studied 137,000 women screened in the north-western region found almost 300 who developed cancer before their second appointment. This number can be reduced only by increasing the sensitivity of screening and reducing the interval from three to two years, they say in the *British Medical Journal*.

In an apparent effort to deflect criticism of the screening programme, which was thought to be a success, the Health Department issued new guidelines last week requiring all women to be given two X-rays of each breast from different angles, instead of one, to improve detection rates. The recommendation is based on re-

sults of an unpublished trial of 40,000 women and which are expected to appear in the *BMJ* later this year.

The *BMJ* says that two-view screening should increase by 20 per cent the number of women detected with breast cancer, but screening at two years would detect between 40 and 50 per cent more cancers than at three years. However, Britain has too few radiologists to implement two-year screening.

However, an article in the *Lancet* says that extra resources for detecting breast cancer would be better spent on encouraging women with minor breast symptoms to seek an examination as soon as possible. Fast growing, aggressive cancers need to be treated when they are as small as possible and it is unlikely that screening could be offered often enough to detect them at this early stage.

The *Lancet* says women with new symptoms affecting one breast such as discomfort, skin dimples or nipple changes should have speedy access to specialist facilities for investigation rather than the typical lengthy wait for referral.

Acid gas 'damaging lungs of infants'

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

LOW levels of sulphur dioxide, an airborne pollutant from power stations and diesel fumes, can trigger shortness of breath and other breathing difficulties in infants, scientists have found.

The extent of the damage, which in many cases lasts well into childhood, can be directly linked to the levels of sulphur pollution during the child's first three years, the researchers say in *The Lancet*.

Scientists have known that very high concentrations of the acid gas can trigger bronchitis and tightening of the lungs. The new findings indicate that continuous exposure to low levels is also highly damaging in young, sensitive lungs. The scientists speculate that the pollutants may also affect lung growth.

The research on lung impairment comes from a Norwegian team that has compared the lung functions of 529 Norwegian children aged seven to thirteen living near a sulphur dioxide-emitting aluminium smelter and in a rural valley. Their findings have significant implications for infants in most British cities because the concentrations are able to cause harm were similar to those found here.

Halt to casualty closures urged

By A STAFF REPORTER

LABOUR yesterday called for the closure of accident and emergency departments to be halted amid fears that patients will face heavy delays at other hospitals. Margaret Beckett, Shadow Health Secretary, spoke out on the eve of the closure of St Bartholomew's casualty department in the City of London.

Doctors and ambulance crews joined a day of protest with prayers and a wreath-laying ceremony at the tomb of Raber, who founded the hospital in 1123, in St Bartholomew the Great Church, West Smithfield.

Bart's will shut this evening and re-open on Monday as a minor injuries unit staffed by nurses. Emergencies will be taken to surrounding hospitals such as Homerton, the Royal London and University College.

Last week Homerton was so overwhelmed with cases that it was forced to close its unit for a few hours. Mrs Beckett said: "The casualty unit at Bart's has not closed yet but there have already been serious problems."

"We are calling for a moratorium on this closure and other closures until there has been a thorough review of healthcare needs in the capital. There are so many questions now on the basis on which these decisions were made. We are calling upon

them to think again before it is too late." Mrs Beckett met representatives of patients and staff at the casualty department, where emergency admissions were halted a fortnight ago. Staff were still treating emergencies referred to them by GPs and people who called in.

Later there was a candle-light procession from the hospital to nearby St Paul's Cathedral. An all-night vigil was planned outside the hospital.

The closure is part of the gradual rundown of Bart's up to the turn of the century, announced three years ago after the Tomlinson report on healthcare in London.

Stephen Miles, accident and emergency consultant at Bart's, said patients would be better off at the other hospitals. "Bart's has been a very well-loved local facility but the alternative will almost certainly be better," Mr Miles said. There would not be any significant delay in getting emergencies through the City to other units and less urgent GP referrals would be delayed by only minutes.

Female and male brains differ, say researchers

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE brains of men and women function in subtly different ways, an American study suggests.

By measuring the rate at which different parts of the brain burn glucose, a team from the University of Pennsylvania has concluded that men tend to be better at tasks requiring dexterity and good perception of space, while women are better at some verbal tasks and in those involving emotional judgment.

Researchers measured glucose metabolism in the brains of 37 men and 24 women as they rested. They found that in general similarities between men and women were greater than differences. But men showed a higher metabolic rate in the temporal lobe, the system of the brain, and women in a region called the cingulate gyrus.

These differences could be related to the ways the two genders deal with emotions, the team suggests in *Science* magazine. Men are inclined to express emotion by action, while women are more likely to put it into words.

Further research is planned on volunteers as they perform psychological tests.

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KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Bridging games

Although Bridge is a popular relaxation for chess players, few chess masters have turned their hand to bridge in any serious capacity. One exception is the former British chess champion Grandmaster Jonathan Mestel, who has also achieved great distinction in British bridge trophies. Another was the world chess champion Dr Emanuel Lasker. In his biography it says: "All through the second half of the 1920s and the first three years of the 1930s Lasker took a greater interest than ever in bridge, for not only did he write a fairly profound book on that game, but he also raised his own prowess to a standard sufficient to make him eligible as the leader of the German team at the Bridge Olympics."

One prominent player in the current Macallan bridge pairs is Michael Rosenberg. He started his mind sports career as a chess international representing Scotland. In the bridge tournament he partners Seymour Deutsch, and now represents America. Here is a game Rosenberg won while playing international chess for Scotland in 1969.

White: Rosenberg (Scotland)
Black: Sozesny (Belgium)
Dresden Students Olympiad

Peterson Defence

1 e4 e5
2 Nf3 Nc6
3 Bb5 Nxd4
4 Nxd4

Diagram of final position

White: Rosenberg (Scotland)
Black: Sozesny (Belgium)
Dresden Students Olympiad

Peterson Defence

1 e4 e5
2 Nf3 Nc6
3 Bb5 Nxd4
4 Nxd4

Wijk aan Zee

In the final of the international knockout tournament at Wijk aan Zee, Holland, Alexei Dreev won his first game against Evgeny Bareev.

Winning Move, page 40

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is a hand from the Macallan tournament. The final session starts today at noon.

Hamman opened a strong No Trump which Robson doubled. East's redoubled left Forrester with an unenviable choice. One course of action would have been to bid Two Clubs. Then when that draws the almost inevitable double, you can continue with an SOS redouble, thus optimising your choice of finding a two-level fit. On this deal, bidding Two Clubs might well have led to Forrester playing that contract redoubled, and making an over-trick.

In practice, Forrester decided to start with one of his suits, and now East had an awkward decision of 3NT did not work out well — Robson, after fingering

Dealer West

♠ A3
♥ K7
♦ 6
♣ AK87552

Love all, IMPs

♠ 10874
♥ Q1096
♦ KJ97
♣ K

W N E S

Hamman Robson Wolff Forrester
1NT 3♠ 2♣ All pass

Contract: 3NT by West. What should North lead?

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

the queen of clubs, led the ace and cleared the suit. He was subsequently forced to discard two club winners on the run of the diamonds to keep the king of hearts guarded, so the contract went two off.

When I asked Robson why he had considered leading the queen of clubs (which would have given the declarer a second club stopper), he said it was so Hamman might be fooled about his club length. Hamman's comment was that on this particular occasion he would have been able "to figure it out."

♣ Scores after the first seven rounds of the Macallan pairs: 1. Meckstroth and Rodwell (US) 291 points; 2. Szwarc and Bompis (France) 273 points; 3. Chentia and Mari (France) 268; 4. Balicki and Zmudzinski (Poland) 249; 5. Forrester and Robson (GB) 221; 6. Levin and Kasle (US) 218.

Leading article, page 17

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Disgruntled voters see merit in idea of constitutional reform

BY PETER RIDDLE

THE public is increasingly dissatisfied with the way Parliament works and there is growing support across party lines for constitutional reform, according to a MORI poll for *The Times*. But creating regional assemblies in England is opposed across the country, except in the North.

The poll shows that the public supports six of Labour's

seven main proposals for changing Britain's constitution, apart from English assemblies. But many people are still undecided.

The proportion of the public believing that Parliament works well has declined from 59 per cent in March 1991 to 39 per cent now, while the number thinking that it works badly has risen from 16 to 59.

GROWING SUPPORT FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

Q I am going to read out a series of changes that a government might propose in the future, and I would like you to tell me to what extent you support or oppose each?

Hold a referendum on changing the system we use to elect MPs

Support Oppose Neither/Don't know

Remove the right of hereditary peers to vote in the House of Lords, so that only life peers have a vote

Create a Scottish parliament with some powers over levels of taxation in Scotland

Establish a new strategic local authority for London

Give greater powers of government to Wales

Give greater powers of government and elected assemblies to other regions of Britain, eg West Country, N West, E Angles etc

And to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Britain needs a Bill of Rights to protect the liberty of the individual

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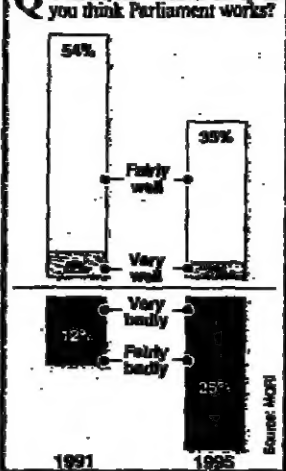
per cent. Nearly half the public backs Labour's proposal to remove the right of hereditary peers to vote in the House of Lords, with just a fifth opposing. A majority of Tory supporters also back the proposal, by a 45 to 32 per cent margin. Middle-class voters are keener on the change than working-class voters.

There is support across the country for devolution for Scotland and Wales. Proposals to create a Scottish parliament with some powers over levels of taxation is backed by 43 per cent and opposed by 27 per cent. In England, which comprises 85 per cent of the British electorate, 39 per cent are in favour with 28 per cent opposed. The level of support is 72 per cent north of the border.

A significant minority of Tory and Labour supporters oppose their party's stand. More than a quarter of Tories are in favour of Scottish devolution and a fifth of Labour supporters are against it. Support for giving greater powers of government to Wales is less strong: 38 per cent back the plan while 30 per cent oppose it. There are also bigger divisions within Wales with three-fifths backing devolution and just over a fifth opposed.

The public opposes devolution to regional assemblies in England, though only by a 40 to 32 per cent margin, and by 41 to 33 per cent in England. But since a quarter of the public has no opinion either way, this suggests that there is no settled view. Northern England is the only region favouring greater powers of

Q Overall, how well or badly do you think Parliament works?



government and elected assemblies, by 39 to 32 per cent.

Labour supporters back regional assemblies in England by a narrow margin, while Liberal Democrats are opposed, by 42 to 29 per cent, contrary to their party's long-standing policy.

However, nearly a third of the public back a new strategic local authority for London with under a quarter opposed. But 45 per cent have no view.

In London itself, a new strategic authority is backed by three-quarters and opposed by just a tenth.

Nearly three-quarters of the public supports Britain having "a Bill of Rights to protect the liberty of the individual". This includes nearly two-thirds of Tory supporters, even though in the House of Lords on Wednesday the Government opposed a Bill that seeks to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. The number strongly backing the proposal has increased since 1991.

The public supports holding a referendum on changing the system used to elect MPs, as proposed by Labour. But the margin in favour, 50 to 23 per cent, is less than when people are asked whether they support holding a referendum on other issues such as Britain's relations with Europe or on capital punishment. This reflects the greater public divisions on changing the electoral system. Tory supporters are evenly split on the proposal.

□ MORI interviewed 1,485 adults on January 20 to 23.



Revival of Tory rating is little comfort for Major

THE Tories should not celebrate the latest MORI poll too much. Their support may have jumped five points to its highest level since last May. But it is far too early to regard this as a real turning point. The shift over the past month is more a correction from highly unusual figures at the end of last year than a fundamental reappraisal in the public's view of the Government.

The 61 per cent level which Labour achieved in mid-December looked unsustainably high, being well above what any party has achieved before. Labour support has dropped to the range it was in last autumn. The party's rows over Clause Four, education and public ownership obviously did not help, and are a warning about the damage that can be caused by prolonged internal arguments. The party has this week turned the attack back on the Government over fairness issues, such as privatisation, where it does well with the public.

There is no sign that Labour has suddenly fallen out of public favour. Some traditional Tory supporters, particularly from the middle classes and owner occupiers, have returned to the fold after dallying with Labour. The same trends are shown even

if the figures are recalculated to take account of the reluctance of some Tory supporters to reveal their voting intentions. After adjusting the "don't knows" for their declared past votes, Labour support is 53 per cent, against 30 per cent for the Tories, still a big lead.

The most revealing evidence is on the Tory side. The public has not become more favourably disposed towards the Government. Dissatisfaction with the way the Government is running the country and John Major is doing his job as Prime Minister are only just above their all-time lows, and are below the averages for the past two years. Moreover, Tory supporters are even less satisfied with the Government and Mr Major than last month. Less than a half of Tories approve of his performance in office. This contrasts with the rise in the morale of Tory MPs at Westminster following Mr Major's strong performances at Prime Minister's questions since the New Year.

The much discussed "Yell-good" factor has still not appeared. Despite the statistics pointing to strong growth, the economic optimism index, measuring those

believing that the general economic condition of the country will improve, rather than get worse over the next 12 months, is still negative. It currently stands at minus 14 points, against minus 15 points last month, lower than the average for the past two years.

The public is nonetheless aware that unemployment is falling. The number mentioning unemployment as among the most important issues facing Britain today has been declining steadily, from a peak of 81 per cent in February 1993 to 52 per cent now, the lowest level for more than three years. (By contrast, the number mentioning Europe as among the most important issues has jumped by five points over the past month to 22 per cent, its highest level since the rows over the Maastricht treaty in late 1992. This presumably reflects the fish-cries and veal rows, and the continuing reports about the Euro-rebels.)

These findings suggest that the Tories have a long way to go to persuade the public that economic recovery is benefiting them. They may therefore have to wait some time for any sustained revival in their fortunes in the opinion polls. There could still be bumpy times ahead for Mr Major.

PETER RIDDLE

Blair faces tough match against Clause 4 defenders

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

TICKETS to see Tony Blair defend the scrapping of Clause Four in Gateshead last night were harder to come by than a prized seat at a Newcastle United home match.

Clause Four, with its commitment to nationalisation, is an emotive issue in the North East, where Labour blames Thatcherism and privatisation for ruining the steel industry, coal industry and shipyards and losing thousands of jobs. The privatised utilities are also unpopular for their big price rises for consumers and big pay rises for directors.

Many party members are deeply unhappy at being bulldozed into changing Clause Four. David Walker, of Houghton and Washington local party, said: "The Ten Commandments have lasted thousands of years and we don't need to modernise them. What's good stands the test of time and Clause Four is why I joined the Labour Party."

Last night in the first of a series of regional question-and-answer sessions under the banner New Labour, New Britain, Mr Blair tried to convince the rank and file

including many of his own constituents from Sedgefield, that modernising Labour would make it electable and rewriting Clause Four was essential to that task.

Before the meeting, Mark Liddle, a party member from Newcastle East, was not impressed. "Clause Four lies at the heart of the Labour Party," he said. "Mr Blair is turning Labour into a pro-market party no different from the Tories. He only cares about low taxes when people here want to know what he's going to spend money on, like education, getting people back to work and retraining."

Nick Breerton, of Newcastle Central, believes that Mr Blair has neglected the views of the North East in his rush to sign up middle-class housewives in the South. "We need Clause Four to help revive industry

here. I am not so desperate to win the election that I will jettison all my principles."

Among supporters of Mr Blair's plan is Sarah Armstrong, 27, who said: "Getting rid of the antiquated Clause Four will remove the fear factor stopping people voting Labour. It will show Mr Blair is in no-one's pocket but he must come out with some proposals soon or it will split the party up here."

However, Pat Buttle, chairwoman of the Durham Socialist Campaign Group, said: "In thirty years canvassing no-one has asked me about it so why must Mr Blair bring it up now?" In the Elgin Square shopping centre in Newcastle she is proved right: people outside the Labour Party appear to have no idea what Clause Four is about and are more interested in football.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: In the Commons, questions to agriculture ministers and the Prime Minister were followed by a statement from Tony Newton, the Leader of the House, on forthcoming Commons debates. There was also an opposition debate on mortgage interest relief for income support claimants and a short debate on the issue of rural England. In the Lords, the

Environment Bill was in committee and the South Africa Bill had its second reading.

TODAY: In the Commons, MPs will debate the second reading of the private member's Bill from David Jamieson (Lab, Plymouth Devonport) on Activity Centres (Visiting Persons) (Safety). The Lords is not sitting.

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EVERYTHING REDUCED EXCEPT THE QUALITY

Chemicals make Spanish meat 'dangerous to eat'

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

A REPORT to be issued shortly by Spain's leading animal rights organisation warns that most Spanish meat and sausages can damage people's health because animals are illegally fattened with huge doses of chemicals and minerals.

At the end of last year a European Union report said that Spain was the worst offender in the EU regarding the use of toxic substances to fatten animals and poultry artificially. Over one third of liver on sale in Spain was found to contain clenbuterol, a steroid-like substance that can cause serious damage to humans. The EU report said that the most clenbuterol detected had been in Málaga, the principal town of the Costa del Sol tourist region.

The Ministry of Agriculture in Madrid said yesterday that the problem of clenbuterol, banned in Spain since 1989, had been transferred to regional governments and was more a health matter.

José Luis Barcelo, director for the Association for the Defence of Animals' Rights,

said his organisation would shortly publish a damning report on *Spanish meat* that shows that most of it is not only unfit but also dangerous for human consumption. Señor Barcelo said that animals, many of them transported from Britain, were kept in battery pens where they were bloated by being fed a cocktail of chemicals and minerals.

We have found that most of these farm factories use 20 per cent more than the permitted EU level of a mineral fibre, ground to bind cattle feed. Huge quantities of clembuterol are also mixed in, increasing the animals' size with water rather than with nutrients," he said.

Manuel Casas, president of the Association for the Defence of Animals' Rights, claims that Spanish factory farmers use more clenbuterol than any other country in Europe. In a report prepared for the association, Octavi Puigats, a professor of philosophy in Barcelona who specialises in ecological issues, cites cases in several regions of Spain where people have suf-

ferred the effects of poisoning after eating liver containing clenbuterol.

"The danger of clenbuterol is that it takes several days or weeks to metabolise and be eliminated from the liver of the animal," he said. "And this is the organ where the biggest quantity is concentrated."

He claimed that the Spanish authorities were trying to cover up the extent of the malpractice and said that hormones, antibiotics and nitrates found in meat in Spain could cause serious medical problems to humans. "We must therefore support ecological farming and new legislation to restrict the use of chemicals and, on a more personal level, avoid eating pâtisseries and cooked meats."

Last week the Spanish Cabinet passed a Bill enforcing EU legislation on the more humane slaughter of animals in Spain. Spain was singled out by the RSPCA for causing unnecessary cruelty to animals after a video taken in a primitive slaughterhouse in Andalusia showed calves being killed with a screwdriver.

er. The Association for the Defence of Animals' Rights, welcomed the new legislation but pointed out that bullfighting was, as usual, automatically excluded from the Bill. Spanish fighting bull breeders obtain the same grants from the EU as normal cattle farmers to encourage meat production.

□ **Orange alert:** Scientists in Valencia, Spain's premier citrus growing region, plan to introduce three species of insect to prey on tiny burrowing caterpillars that threaten this year's entire crop of oranges, lemons and grapefruit.

Initially the authorities at the Valencia agriculture department were stumped when *Phyllocnistis citrella staintoni* first appeared on orange and lemon trees in Málaga two years ago. The larvae were destroying the buds on the trees by eating the tender inner parts before eventually becoming a miniature butterfly. The insect first appeared in Australia in 1970 and it is from there that scientists are to import three other insects that feed on the burrower.



The submerged promenade of the German town of Zell yesterday after heavy rain made the Mosel break its banks and caused the worst flooding in some areas for 50 years. The German authorities issued a warning that the

Floods drench Germany

worst was yet to come, particularly between Karlsruhe and Koblenz. In Bad Kreuznach, south of Mainz, an 81-year-old man drowned.

Widespread flooding was reported in the states of Saar, Hesse, Rhineland-Palatinate and Bavaria. Rhineland-Palatinate called in guards to

help its rescue work. The western town of Trier distributed 30,000 sandbags and asked 300 American soldiers to help erect a dam. The old town of Cologne is expecting floods today. (Reuter)

Yemen dismisses border build-up

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

A SENIOR Yemeni envoy to Saudi Arabia said last night that border talks between the two countries were progressing and he rejected as "provocative rumours" reports that Saudi forces were massing two miles from the disputed frontier.

"The negotiations are moving normally and there have been no impediments so far," said Abdullah al-Ahmar, Yemen's parliamentary Speaker.

Mr al-Ahmar, the pro-Saudi chief of Yemen's powerful Hashed tribal confederation, arrived in Riyadh last week after tension flared along the border. A series of skirmishes culminated in reports of a large Saudi military build-up in the border area. Syria and Egypt persuaded the two countries to resume talks.

Other Yemenis remained deeply sceptical. Abdul Aziz al-Sakkaf, the editor-in-chief of

the *Yemen Times*, said Mr al-Ahmar was putting a positive gloss on negotiations. Mr al-Ahmar had made several important concessions to the Saudis during the past two weeks and "is growing less and less popular in Sanaa", Mr al-Sakkaf said. Among the concessions Yemen had agreed not to refer the dispute to any international organisation, accepting instead direct talks with the participation of Egyptian and Syrian mediators, he said.

Diplomats and military officials in Sanaa, the Yemeni capital, reported that Saudi Arabia had moved 200 tanks, rocket-launchers and helicopters near frontline positions. Yemen was reported to have moved troops up to the border. Foreign diplomats in Riyadh said, however, that there was no evidence of unusual military activity.

Doctor to get bail

Harare: Richard McGown, 58, the Scottish anaesthetist, began a six-month jail sentence yesterday, but lawyers expect him to be released on bail today (Jan Raath writes). McGown was given a prison sentence and fined on Wednesday on two counts of culpable homicide for causing

By late yesterday afternoon McGown's lawyers had won a Supreme Court order for his immediate release. The order reinstated his bail of \$80,000 pending appeals.

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Sri Lanka rebels offer to give up homeland demand

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN JAFFNA CITY

AFTER 12 years of war and more than 30,000 dead on all sides, the Tamil Tigers have offered to drop their demand for a separate Tamil homeland in exchange for substantial autonomy within Sri Lanka. If genuine, the offer represents a significant climb-down and an unprecedented opportunity for peace.

Anton Balasingham, the rebels' chief political strategist, made the proposal while speaking in the Tigers' stronghold of Jaffna peninsula yesterday.

This is the first time the Tigers have suggested abandoning their demand for a homeland in the north and east, which would comprise about one-third of the island. The offer came as the rebels and the Government prepared for a fourth round of peace talks, which began last autumn. No date has been fixed.

"We have not clarified what form of federalism would be suitable but the Tamil people should have a form of self-government in their own territory with legislative and executive powers," Mr Balasingham said. The Sri Lankan Government would be responsible for foreign relations and currency.

The Government of President Kumaratunga Bandaranaike, elected last August, has made peace its priority. Tamils in the Jaffna peninsula seem excited by the possibility of permanent peace after the introduction of a ceasefire three weeks ago, which ended four years of intensive fighting.

Much of Jaffna City has been ruined by bombing and shelling by the air force and navy and even a central area under the protection of the International Committee of the Red Cross has been damaged.

Many Tamils are optimistic that their control of most of the northern region of the island will be recognised, and that the Government will hand over the 39 billion rupees (£520 million) it has promised to rebuild the region, which has no electricity or telephones and little running water.

Such optimism is at worst wildly excessive and at best premature, given that Sinhalese nationalists and hardline Buddhist monks would fight any government attempt to grant a de facto homeland to the largely Hindu Tamils, who suffered years of abuse by the Sinhalese Buddhist majority and finally took up arms in the 1970s. The Tamil Tigers were formed in 1975 by the reclusive Vellupillai Prabhakaran, 40.

The Tigers' apparent decision to modify their central demand has been conveyed formally to Colombo. It will be viewed with suspicion by the Government, given the rebels' record of posturing for political, psychological and military advantage. The Tamils tend to exploit ceasefires to restock. Arms are smuggled in small boats across the Palk Strait from India, despite patrols by the Indian Navy.

Mr Balasingham, formerly a lecturer in social science at

the then South Bank Polytechnic in London and a translator with the British High Commission in Colombo from 1965-70, said that peace negotiations could fail if the Buddhist clergy put pressure on Mrs Kumaratunga.

The Tigers abandoned their Marxist beliefs with the collapse of communism. "The Marxist perspective has no meaning to us any more," Mr Balasingham said. The priority was to address the immediate daily needs of the people of Jaffna.

"This is the first time we have made a clear statement that a federal form of autonomy is the most suitable political system acceptable to the Tamil people," he said. "There should be a recognition of a Tamil homeland — a historically constituted Tamil territory with appropriate devolution."

Sikh troops of the Indian Army on parade in Delhi yesterday to mark Republic Day. President Mandela of South Africa was a special guest and watched the ceremony. As the capital celebrated the anniversary of the constitution, at least eight people were killed by bombs

Blasts rock rallies as India celebrates Republic Day

which exploded during a rally in Kashmir. Up to 100 others were injured by three blasts which rocked a stadium during a rally attended by

15,000 people in Jammu, winter capital of the north Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. Two devices went off next to the podium where the state

Governor, K. V. Krishnakumar, was addressing the gathering. General Rao escaped with a minor injury to his nose. His bodyguard was killed. The Governor ordered an investigation into the blasts, which officials believed to be the work of separatist militants. (Reader)

Burmese pound Karen camps

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN RANGOON

THE Burmese junta moved yesterday to crush one of the world's longest-running insurgencies as 10,000 troops pounded rebel strongholds with artillery and small arms. "They're not letting up at all," said a border source. "They are moving all the time."

Rangoon last month broke the unilateral ceasefire it declared in 1992 to take advantage of a split in the Karen rebel group. Karen rebels said that about 500 of their 4,000 troops defected on Sunday to help Rangoon fight its biggest offensive against the rebels in three years.

The rebels said 5,000 soldiers were attacking their headquarters and another 5,000 were advancing against their bases. Nawta and Kamoora, also along the Burmese-Thai border. The rebels added that there had been heavy casualties but no figures were given.

WORLD SUMMARY

Illiteracy attacked by Pope

Rome: The Pope said yesterday that birth control programmes could not be imposed on couples in the developing world, particularly on people who were illiterate. The Pope made his comments in a message for Lent — which begins on March 1 — on the theme of illiteracy, which he called a "hidden evil" that deprived people of progress. He acknowledged that rising world population was a serious concern but said: "In this area, it is preferable that families should themselves take responsibility." (Reuters)

El Salvador siege ends

San Salvador: Hundreds of army veterans from El Salvador's civil war have ended their 24-hour siege of the Legislative Assembly and other public buildings. The veterans, angered over the Government's alleged failure to fulfil promises of land and aid, used machetes and clubs to storm and occupy the buildings. (Reuters)

Big break for small shops

Lisbon: Portugal has passed a decree ordering supermarkets and department stores to cut Sunday opening hours to give small shops a chance. Large stores may open no more than six hours on Sundays and holidays. The Christmas shopping season is exempt under the law, which will remain in force until 1998. (AP)

Ceausescu mourned

Bucharest: Communist diehards and others nostalgic for old certainties gathered at the grave of Nicolae Ceausescu, the executed Romanian dictator, to mark what would have been his 77th birthday. Five years since he was toppled in a Christmas revolution, supporters sang songs and lit candles. (Reuters)

Reward for rescuers

Ankara: Turkish officials rewarded poor villagers who rescued Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Couillard, a lost American airman, and his son Matthew, after a high-tech search had failed to find them. The 17 villagers received cloth for suits, watches, and £55



The doomed rocket lifts off at Xichang

Chinese rocket ends in fireball

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

CHINESE officials are investigating why a Chinese Long March 2E rocket carrying a telecommunications satellite exploded in an orange fireball yesterday seconds after being launched.

They pledged the blast would not adversely affect confidence in China's ability to launch such satellites.

Foreign executives, including some who watched the lift-off in darkness at China's Xichang space centre in south-western Sichuan province, were not so sure, saying that the explosion, the second incident in just over a month affecting China's satellite programme, could seriously affect plans for future launches in the country.

Clients of the Chinese government-owned Apstar 2 telecommunications satellite carried by the rocket included Turner Broadcasting, Home Box Office, Discovery Channel, Hong Kong's Television Broadcasts, Reuters Television and ESPN, a sports channel.

The Long March 2E is a redesigned ballistic missile China hopes will attract a large segment of the portable world launch market. The Apstar 2 satellite, built by Hughes Aircraft, was the largest payload yet launched by it. Shen Guofeng, at the Foreign Ministry, said: "This explosion is a big incident and we regret it." Mr Shen said it would not be known whether planned launches would be postponed until the investigation was complete.

About 45 seconds after a smooth liftoff, there was an explosion, apparently during the separation of boosters, one Western television executive who was present at the

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156 Tottenham Court Road W1
LONDON In Staples Corner M42

LONDON NW North Circular Road NW10
(Opp. Hanger Lane Cemetery)
LONDON SE Clifton's Roundabout, South Circular Road SE8
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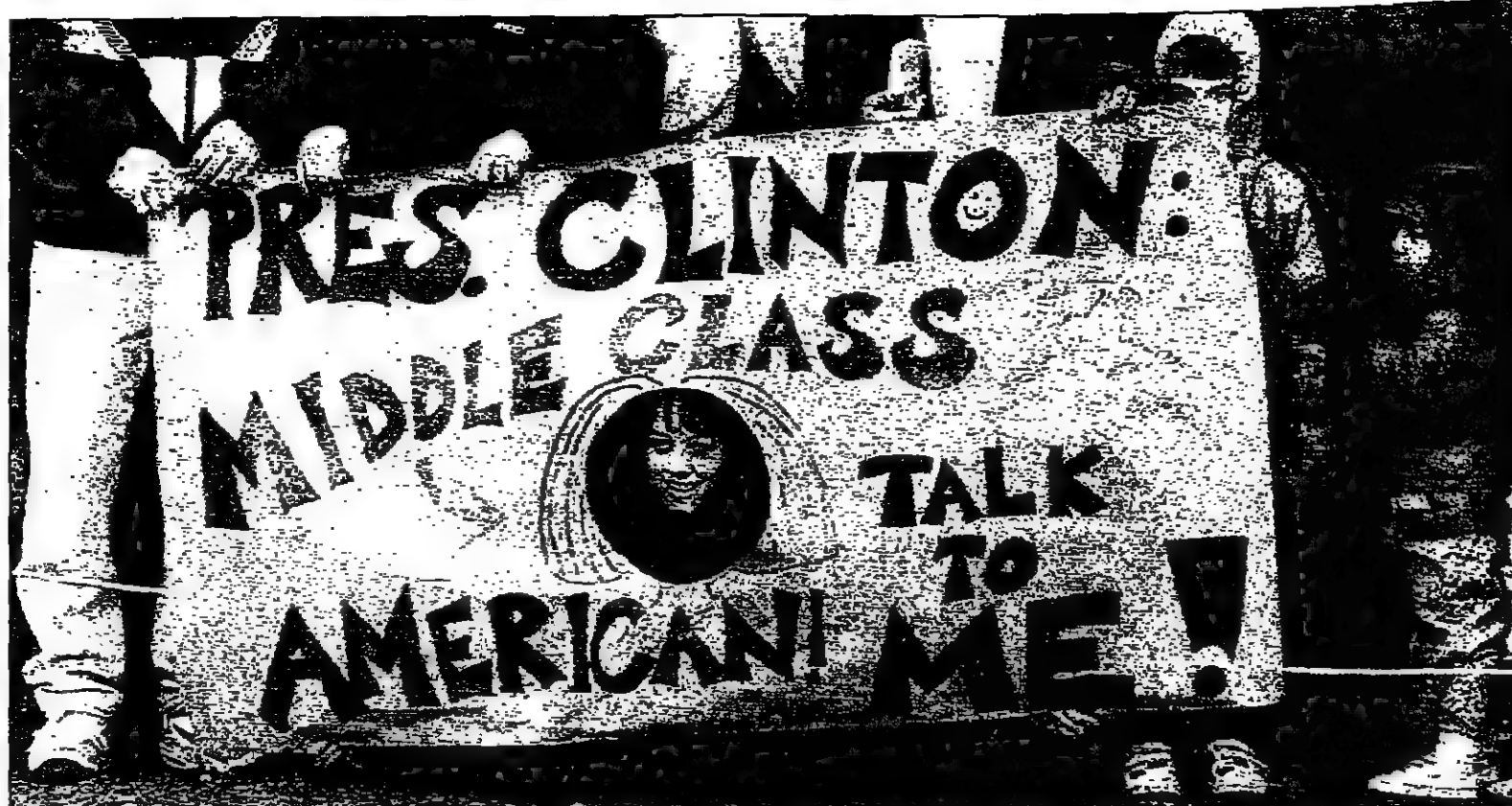
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A woman in rural Kutztown, Pennsylvania, tries to attract President Clinton's attention on his way to address the state college

Moderate Republicans oppose move to obstruct tax increases

Gingrich faces budget setback

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE House of Representatives looked set last night to water down the first and most radical Bill in Newt Gingrich's Contract with America—a constitutional amendment requiring the Government to balance its books by 2002.

Deserted by several moderate Republicans, the new House Speaker fell 37 votes short of the 290 he needed for a provision requiring a three-fifths "super-majority" in both the House and Senate for any future tax increases. The provision was designed to make it harder for Congress to balance the budget through taxation instead of spending cuts.

The House was later voting on five alternative versions of the constitutional amendment. The one that received

the most support would then go to a final vote. It looked probable that Mr Gingrich's original would be outpolled by one requiring only a simple majority for future tax increases, but it was not certain that even that milder version would ultimately attract the two-thirds majority required for a constitutional amendment.

It had the support of at least 69 Democrats, but a dozen newly-elected conservative Republicans were defying their party leaders and voting to oppose any version that did not contain the "super-majority" provision.

Congress has turned to a constitutional amendment because other attempts to curb America's runaway deficit

have so conspicuously failed. The Government is spending roughly \$200 billion (£125 billion) more each year than it takes in. The national debt has reached \$3,600 billion, requiring interest payments of \$235 billion a year.

Proponents of the balanced budget amendment claimed that to burden future generations with such huge debt was a form of "fiscal child abuse" and that it was already damaging America's competitiveness.

Opponents countered that the amendment would trivialise the constitution when Congress already had all the powers it needed to balance the budget, and it would leave the Government in an economic straitjacket

during times of recession. The reductions it would require would wreak havoc on the Government's ability to deliver even basic services.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that to balance the federal budget by 2002 would mean finding a staggering \$1,200 billion in savings or extra revenue over the next seven years. The entire annual federal budget is \$1,500 billion.

The Senate will almost certainly vote down the "super-majority" provision regardless of the final House vote, but even then it is an open question whether the required 38 states would ratify any version of a balanced budget amendment. They fear they will end up bearing the brunt

of the cuts. Today is the 25th day of the new Congress, meaning it is a quarter of the way through the 100-day period in which Mr Gingrich promised votes on all ten "contract" Bills, and Republican leaders admit they are struggling to meet that deadline. Democrats, warning to their new opposition role, have stalled a Bill prohibiting Congress from imposing unfunded mandates on the states with nearly 150 amendments.

Another Bill, limiting how long Congressmen could serve, is causing divisions within both parties. Also in big trouble, though it is not part of the "contract", is the Administration's \$40 billion loan-guarantee package for Mexico.

Congress numbered by prolix President

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

NEWT GINGRICH has done President Clinton a favour. By sacking the House historian he made it impossible to confirm beyond all doubt yesterday that President Clinton's feature-length State of the Union message was the longest any President has delivered to Congress.

The first, by George Washington in 1790, was just 850 words. The White House predicted that Tuesday night's would last 40 minutes. In the event, Mr Clinton ploughed on for 81 minutes, making his infamous 32-minute speech to the 1988 Democratic convention seem a mere soundbite.

The President's prolixity was spawning jokes, even before he finished. Strom Thurmond, the 92-year-old South Carolina senator, leaned over to Robert Dole, the Senate Republican leader, to ask if there would be an intermission. Mr Dole whispered to Leon Panetta, the White House Chief of Staff, that he was thinking of calling a recess. Christine Todd Whitman, New Jersey's Governor, began the official Republican response with a promise not to seek equal time, and took just 12 minutes.

Fred Thompson, a Republican senator, said the applause after the President's speech was "so deafening it darn near woke up a couple of guys sitting near me".

The White House offered various explanations. Officials said that Mr Clinton had not expected a Republican Congress to applaud so much and that he had not rehearsed the whole speech in advance.

Some Republicans claimed that Mr Clinton rambled on until 10.35pm so that no one would watch Mrs Whitman's response and newspapers would be unable to gather Republican reaction.

Australia party chief resigns

Sydney: Alexander Downer became the shortest serving leader in the history of the Australian Liberal Party yesterday when he resigned after eight months in the job (Roger Maynard writes).

Mr Downer will step down next Monday, paving the way for John Howard to take over. Mr Howard is widely seen as the Opposition's only hope of defeating Paul Keating, the Prime Minister, at the next general election. Mr Howard, the Shadow Industrial Relations Minister, is a previously firm monarchist who has recently softened his approach to Australia becoming a republic.

Nuns freed

Freetown: Rebels in Sierra Leone have freed seven foreign nuns but are still holding several of the 100 people taken during a raid on a village, a Defence Ministry official here said. (AFP)

Prize dispute

Seoul: Coretta Scott King, Martin Luther King's widow, angered human rights activists here by presenting President Kim Young Sam with the peace prize named for her husband. (Reuters)

Pact signed

Amman: Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, and Shafiq Zaid bin Shaker of Jordan signed an accord intended to guide co-operation after more than a year of talks. (Reuters)

Slick take-off

Charleston: A taxi driver who drove a man 150 miles to an airport for a £280 fare, then lent him £65 towards a plane ticket on a promise of having the money wired to him, found he had been duped by a runaway convict. (AP)

Nuclear treaty under threat

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A FURIOUS diplomatic battle is being waged in New York over the future of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, which could threaten the entire non-proliferation regime.

Britain and other nuclear-weapon powers are meeting strong opposition in their effort to renew the treaty for an indefinite period when the agreement expires this year. Influential Third World nations and anti-nuclear groups are trying to attach conditions to extension of the treaty, and to renew it only for a limited time.

Their demands include: a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing; a moratorium on the production of fissionable material for military purposes; the relaxation of restrictions on the export of peaceful nuclear technology; further reductions in nuclear weapons stockpiles; and the application of the treaty's rules to Israel. The diplomatic struggle is being played out at this week's final preparatory meeting in New York for the treaty renewal conference planned to begin in the city on April 17.

The treaty came into force in 1970 as a grand bargain between the main nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear countries, in which non-nuclear nations renounced nuclear arms in return for promised disarmament by the nuclear powers. Despite obvious cheating in the case of Iraq, the treaty has kept a lid on nuclear proliferation and scored some considerable successes, such as South Africa's decision to renounce nuclear arms.

Only Israel, India and Pakistan, none of which subscribes to the treaty, are thought to have developed nuclear weapons capability since the 1960s.

O.J. Simpson defence alleges police bungled murder inquiry

BY TOM RHODES

JOHNNIE COCHRAN, the leading lawyer for O.J. Simpson and one of the most prominent black attorneys in America, plans to launch a fierce attack on the Los Angeles Police Department whose forensic laboratory, he claims, bungled the investigation into the murders of his client's former wife and her friend.

Mr Cochran, whose opening statements accused prosecutors of "rushing to judgment" in their efforts to find the former American football star guilty of the killings, has already denounced the police by undermining their DNA blood tests and has brought forward new witnesses whose evidence suggests others may have committed the crimes.

The introduction of as many as 13 new witnesses, whose names were not disclosed to the prosecution, brought a new melodrama to the courtroom yesterday. William Hodgman, the deputy District Attorney, had accused the defence of "outrageous and unbelievable" behaviour, which he said had prejudiced the case against Mr Simpson.

The prosecutor subsequently went to hospital with chest pains. He was still in bed yesterday described as in "stable and comfortable" condition. Doctors would not say whether he had suffered a heart attack. It was not immediately certain whether Judge



O.J. Simpson shows the jury the scars on his knees caused by American football at the start of his trial

Lance Ito would postpone proceedings. The judge was first considering the prosecution's complaints over the witnesses, two of whom are likely to be pivotal in establishing an alibi for Mr Simpson. Rosa Lopez, a neighbour's maid, claims to have seen his Ford Bronco outside

his house at the time police say he was committing the murders. She also claims to have heard male voices emanating from the Simpson compound after he had left for Chicago on a business trip. Another witness says she saw four men walking near the murder scene on the night of June 12.

Some were wearing limited ski hats and two appeared to be carrying objects.

However, they can do little to refute the prosecution evidence of a "trail of blood" from the murder scene to the Simpson house which the team claims proves the former sportsman is guilty.

Mr Cochran has managed to paint a portrait of Mr Simpson far removed from the stalker, wife-beater and obsessively jealous husband described by the prosecution.

Instead Mr Simpson had been asked to show swollen legs and arthritic hands, damaged by years of American football. A man, in short, incapable of killing his former wife. Pictures of the athlete taken three days after the crime proved that Mr Simpson had not a mark on his body that could have suggested a struggle.

Nevertheless, it is the forensic laboratory at the police department that will become the centre of attention for a defence team eager to undermine seemingly irrefutable scientific proof. "That laboratory is a cesspool of contamination," Mr Cochran said. "It's not up to speed and it's not up to standard." The defence has questioned the methods of the investigation from the start, querying the way that forensic evidence was gathered.

Mr Simpson denies murdering Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

Family ends publisher's long wait for Beckett

BY JAMES BONE

A TRANSATLANTIC row over Samuel Beckett's unpublished first play has ended with the author's estate giving grudging permission to his American publisher to print an American edition.

Barney Rosset, the legendary founder of Grove Press who brought dozens of works by major postwar European writers to America, plans to publish *Eleutheria* in March despite objections by Beckett's family that the writer considered

the work a failure. Mr Rosset says Beckett gave him the manuscript at a party at the Café Coupole in Paris in 1986 when he had just been fired from Grove Press, and urged him to use the play to start a new publishing house.

But Beckett's nephew and heir, Edward Beckett, insisted that his uncle did not want the work published, citing an author's note on the manuscript that says the play had been "jettisoned". Last year he threatened legal action to prevent a public reading of the play in New York.

forcing Mr Rosset to hold the event before 100 invited guests in his East Village apartment.

Ignoring the family's protests, Mr Rosset went ahead with plans to publish an English translation of the original French text by the novelist and playwright Michael Brodsky. This week, Beckett's literary executor, Jérôme Lindon of Editions de Minuit in Paris, sent a fax to Mr Rosset in New York in which he reluctantly gave permission for the American edition.

Rwanda taxes team from Hollywood

FROM TOM WALKER IN KIGALI

DENZEL Washington as Major-General Paul Kagame? Whoopi Goldberg as the prefect of Kigali? The absurd became reality yesterday, as only it can with Hollywood. Some of Tinseltown's most celebrated scriptwriters descended on Rwanda, to see if genocide can be brought to the big screen.

Sitting in the leafy compound of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the gilded thirty-somethings discussed what their mission should be. Even if a film of the Rwandan atrocities is never made, the UNHCR says the publicity makes the visit worthwhile. "We're going back via Capitol Hill, we'll talk to the politicians, and then there'll be a major press conference in Los Angeles,"

said Barbara Franco, the UNHCR press officer with the team. The four scriptwriters—accompanied by Mike Farrell, who played B.J. Hunnicutt in the television series *Mash*—will visit the Kigali prison, various churches where massacres were committed and the refugee camps around Goma, Zaire, and Ngara, Tanzania.

"Hollywood and this situation are such opposites," said David Koepf, who wrote the

script for *Jurassic Park*. "It can be easy assuaging guilt by just writing a cheque, but doing this seemed a much more personal contribution."

Mr Koepf said it would be "pretty arrogant" for the scriptwriters to pretend that such a short visit left them completely informed about Rwanda. "I can't imagine not looking like an idiot if I try to draw comparisons between Goma and *Jurassic Park*," he said.

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Refugees vow defiance as Russians widen onslaught

Black ravens peck greedily in the bloody snow while hungry dogs roam the deserted thoroughfares in search of scraps of flesh. The Minutka, at one time a Chechen command centre after the loss of the Presidential Palace, is black with shellfire, while Avtorikhanov Street, formerly Lenin Prospekt, is a smoking architectural carcass.

Those of its citizens who were able to have gone for those who remain, Grozny is not falling, but simply being rendered untenable, robbed from its possessors not by superior strategy, but by a brute colossus of shellfire and shrapnel. Even the city's de-



Battered in the capital, but unbowed in spirit, the Chechens promise another Afghanistan. Anthony Loyd reports that citizens fleeing Grozny as refugees can expect little respite in the countryside

fenders are beginning to acknowledge the inevitable. "They can destroy us all but they can never destroy our spirit," said Rashid, commander of a unit near devastated Avtorikhanov Street.

Other fighters are resolved on longer-term combat options. "There is a chance now that they will take the town," admitted Ali. "But it won't happen quickly. It has taken them nearly two months to get

to the river. Whatever happens there is no way we will stop fighting. Hills, mountains, wherever, this war will go on."

Yesterday Grozny's options seemed slimmer than ever, as Russian tanks and artillery pieces finally made the southern route to the city impassable and switched their fire to the one remaining route out in the southeast.

To leave the capital has become as dangerous as to enter it. Many Chechen drivers simply refuse to attempt to drive in any more, whatever money they are offered. Abandoned by one normally unshakable driver near the centre of town, a small group

of journalists had to make their escape on foot, confused and shaken by the indiscriminate artillery fire that rained down about them, closing familiar routes. There was none to ask for direction as they chased down the ice-covered streets of Grozny.

The war is spreading from the city like shockwaves on a screen. The countryside is packed with refugees, and they know what has happened to their city. They are angry, and the Chechen nature lends itself more to vengeance than forgiveness. Russian jets are attacking targets deeper and deeper in the countryside, while Russian guns continue to fire on

Chechen villages. Whatever the outcome of the conflict in the capital, the Chechen nation is in its spirit more divorced from Russia than at any time since the Second World War, with consequences that will be far reaching.

"I fought for four years in Afghanistan," said a Ukrainian soldier fighting along the Chechens. "I have been here for some time as I have many Chechen friends who I served with in the army."

"If it is what they want then the Russians will have a new Afghanistan here. It may take time and lives, but the end shall be the same — they shall leave."

General denounces Chechenia operation

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday pledged an early end to the Chechen war, as a general dismissed for refusing to command the invasion. The Russian Defence Ministry for bad planning and moral cowardice.

Mr Yeltsin was speaking in the central Russian city of Lipetsk, during the first of a series of trips that are meant to restore his crumbling image among ordinary Russians. The President also promised to continue with Russia's economic reforms and said that stabilisation is possible in 1995. His views on the economy have been met with deep scepticism because of the costs of the Chechen invasion.

The former deputy commander of land forces in Chechenia denounced the operation yesterday as poorly planned and prepared. Colonel-General Eduard Vorobyov was ordered to resign last month for refusing to take command of the Chechen operation.

General Vorobyov said he had not even heard about the planned intervention until he was told to put on combat uniform and fly to the republic on December 17. He said he agreed two days later to take temporary command of Russian forces, but he realised they were in no condition to carry out Moscow's orders for a "blitzkrieg".

General Vorobyov said that General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, should "have had the courage to tell the President that time was needed to prepare the troops".

One piece of news that was welcomed by Western economists and diplomats yesterday was that Mr Yeltsin had

appointed Pyotr Mostovoi, a well-known reformer, as head of the agency responsible for implementing the privatisation programme. Mr Mostovoi replaces Vladimir Polevanov, a conservative who had threatened to halt the entire programme and reverse many of the privatisations. Mr Polevanov, who was dismissed this week, had been appointed as part of attempts by the Yeltsin administration to woo state economic managers and moderate members of the Communist opposition.

Mr Mostovoi is a longstanding associate of Anatoli Chubais, the Deputy Prime Minister who is the architect of the privatisation programme and the last remaining radical reformer in the Russian Cabinet. In recent months, Mr Chubais has forged an alliance of sorts with Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, once a conservative opponent. Mr Chernomyrdin and Mr Chubais fear the hardline security men and military industrialists, such as General Aleksandr Lebedev and Oleg Lobov, who now dominate Mr Yeltsin's entourage and the National Security Council. The council has usurped many cabinet functions.

After virtually withdrawing from public life during the Chechen intervention, Mr Yeltsin is trying to present himself once again as a hands-on President. After his visit in Lipetsk, he told journalists "I encouraged the workers to ask questions about Chechenia and they told me it is high time to end the conflict. I told them we wanted with all our hearts to end the conflict."

Rouble hits record low

Moscow: The rouble tumbled to a record low yesterday, falling to more than 4,000 to the dollar for the first time.

But dealers said the drop to 4,004 against the US currency from Wednesday's 3,996 had been engineered by the central bank. The bank

had allowed the rouble to rise significantly against the dollar in the months before it fell sharply last October on soaring demand for dollars, prompting a currency crisis. Now the bank appears anxious not to repeat the same mistake. (Reuters)

Britain backs French on force to tackle terrorism

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN is ready to include terrorism in the remit of Europol, the embryo clearing house for European police investigators. France announced yesterday after a meeting of European deputy interior ministers in Paris.

The Home Office said yesterday that Michael Forsyth, the Minister of State, had agreed to the inclusion of terrorism because Britain had long seen this as a legitimate area of co-operation between governments. Despite public criticism from Charles Pasqua, the French Interior Minister, of Britain, Germany and other European Union states for their lenient line towards Algerian Muslim militants, British and French security forces have worked closely together in keeping known leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front under observation.

Germany's plans for the development of Europol, which began as a body to streamline the European fight against drugs, suffered a setback at the Essen summit last month. Since then France, which has taken over the EU presidency, has pushed for tighter controls on Islamic radicals, and sees yesterday's agreement as an important step in its attempt to co-ordinate a tough EU line on the Islamic insurgency in Algeria.

Pushed by a fear that the violence may spill over into France, Paris has made a revamped Mediterranean policy a priority for its EU presidency. At a meeting of EU Foreign Ministers at Monday, France outlined proposals for an ambitious new aid package for the Mediterranean, but no money was

agreed. Britain opposes any sharp increase in spending on aid for North Africa, and insists that opening markets to citrus exports and other agricultural produce would be the best way of aiding these countries' struggling economies.

"It comes ill from the southern countries to demand more aid for North Africa when they are not ready to open their own markets, which would allow these countries to boost exports," one official said yesterday.

France, however, wants to switch the focus away from Eastern Europe, where aid and know-how funds have been concentrated, and give greater priority to the Maghreb states, Spain and Italy, which will hold the EU presidencies after France, also believe more should be done to stabilise North Africa and boost employment to lessen the threat of mass illegal immigration to southern Europe.

The Ramon Trias Fargas foundation in Spain is holding a conference at the beginning of next month to which ministers and officials from Morocco, Tunisia, Spain, France and Israel have been invited, to discuss technological transfers and free trade. In November the Spanish Government will also hold a conference in Barcelona on Spanish proposals for a closer integration between Europe and North Africa. Italy is also likely to support calls for a revival of proposals five years ago for a Conference for Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean.

Leading article, page 17

Colonel disciplined over insult to women

Jerusalem: The commander of an Israeli armoured brigade was court-martialled yesterday for telling high school students "men have always been warriors and women, prostitutes", the army said.

The northern front commander today found Colonel Gershon Hachoen guilty and severely reprimanded him for an unauthorised lecture in which he made remarks humiliating and hurtful to women soldiers and officers and to the honour of women in general," a spokesman said.

Hachoen expressed deep regret for his comments, made in a lecture at a Jerusalem secondary school to male and female students due to be conscripted on graduation, the spokesman said. In the same lecture, Hachoen said computers and answering machines could perform many of the duties of women soldiers.

Israeli women, like men, are drafted into the army at the age of 18. Some women soldiers act as instructors, but are banned from combat duty.

A brigade commander who says such despicable things should not be a leader of men," Yossi Sarid, the Environment Minister, said. (Reuters)



Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, the softly-spoken new UN commander, arrives in Sarajevo yesterday

Quiet soldier's 'mission impossible'

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

THE new commander of the United Nations troops in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, 51, flew into Sarajevo yesterday, promising to focus his efforts on delivering humanitarian aid and encouraging the peace process.

The British Gulf War veteran assumed charge of what is probably the most tricky of all UN peacekeeping missions. Hours before he arrived in Sarajevo, Bosnian Serb gunners fired six artillery shells into an inhabited part of the UN "safe area" of Bihac.

The general will have to balance the conflicting methods and goals of a peacekeeper with thousands of vulnerable troops, a peace-enforcer with

Nato war planes at his disposal and a mediator with little leverage. Most observers say it is an impossible mission, but Western countries are unwilling to face the consequences of ending it.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, General Smith's predecessor who left on Monday, left behind a country that is calmer than when he arrived but no closer to peace.

General Rose will be promoted to full general in July and assume the post of Adjutant-General, one of the Army's top three posts.

Apart from the obstacles and hazards of commanding the politically sensitive 23,000-strong operation, General Smith faces a tough fight with

a sceptical and often unforgiving foreign press corps who rarely saw eye to eye with his predecessor. The general, who is said to favour maintaining a healthy distance from the media, was confident and friendly in his first encounter with the international press. His statement offered nothing new, which suggested to some a smooth, if uneventful transition.

"I am pleased to take up the reins from my predecessor, Michael Rose, to do what we can to give aid to the unfortunate and long-suffering people caught up in this conflict and, on the basis of the cessation of hostilities, to work hard at arriving at a settlement and peace in this country," the

general said at Sarajevo airport. He ducked more probing questions about his concerns and how to succeed where others have failed. That, some officers and journalists who know the new commander from previous operations say, reflects the different approach of the new man. Whereas General Rose was known for being spontaneous, unorthodox and having a taste for heated debate, the new commander is reputed to be pensive, considered and softly spoken.

Officers who have served with General Smith previously say that, although his style is unlike his predecessor's, the end result is likely to be the same.

OSLOBODENJE

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Oslobodenje has not missed an issue in 1,000 days of siege

Sarajevo's daily defies siege to meet deadline

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE pen has been mightier than the sword in Sarajevo, where the catatonia of war has failed to stop the presses of the Bosnian capital's *Oslobodenje* newspaper for even one of the city's 1,000 days of siege.

As the capital marks the 1,000th day of conflict tomorrow, the newspaper will go on sale as usual to the news-hungry and isolated citizens of Sarajevo. The price of publication has been dear: four employees killed, 20 — including the former editor-in-chief, Kemal Kurspahic — injured, the newspaper's headquarters flattened.

Oslobodenje means liberation but there has been precious little of that for the defenders of press freedom who have lived mole-like existences working with next to no resources from a nuclear fall-out shelter.

The paper began life as an underground pamphlet when it was founded in 1943 by anti-Fascist partisans. It has been a rare source of news since April 1992 in a city of rumours and electricity blackouts. Mehmet Halilovic, who was elected editor-in-chief by fellow employees a year ago, said: "Our worst time was June and July 1992, when our building was

shelled and set on fire. People could not believe it when we still managed to bring out a paper."

The staff moved to the nuclear bunker, where ten employees lived for seven days at a time then took three days off, risking sniper fire on their way in and out.

"Although we may have missed a morning edition, we have published a paper every single day. We now have modest new premises which we rent in the city, but we still keep two teams of production staff and editors working on a weekly basis in the shelter," said Mr Halilovic, who is working on plans to print a Frankfurt edition for distribution to Bosnians now living elsewhere in Europe.

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Is the most revered restaurant guide blind to the virtues of modern British cooking? Julia Llewellyn Smith on the merits of Michelin

Stars and gripes of the little red book

The film world has the Oscars, literary circles the Booker Prize, while in the temples of gastronomy the ultimate accolade is three Michelin stars. Whether they admit it or not, most chefs would spend the rest of their lives on a diet of Mother's Pride and Spam if they could only see those three red rosettes twinkling next to their names.

The awards, in Britain at least, are as rare as a French vegetarian. When the Michelin guide was launched here in 1974, only five restaurants were given a measly one star — for "very good". In the 1995 awards, announced this week, 57 restaurants had one star, six had two. Meanwhile, the number of three-star establishments had doubled overnight: last year's superstars, the Waterside Inn at Bray and La Tante Claire in London, had been joined by Nico Ladenis's Chez Nico at 90 Park Lane and The Restaurant, Marco Pierre White.

While Marco and Nico — superchefs, like supermodels, are known by their first names only — partied the night away, loud grumbling was heard in the rest of the restaurant world, where, with each passing year, the Michelin awards are regarded with more and more resentment and disrespect.

The problem, say many, is that the guide, which is French in origin, has little understanding of food in Britain. Starred establishments are nearly always French influenced, very few of our thriving ethnic restaurants are recognised and, according to many, more attention is paid to fancy trappings than to food on the plates.

"Michelin should stick to making tyres and maps in this country. I don't think they understand the London scene at all," says Joel Kissin, of Conran restaurants. "They are very keen on pomp and circumstance, and they won't look at you unless you have the 1990s equivalent of the red carpet."

Sour grapes, perhaps, given that Quaglino's, one of the Conran flagships, lost its red "M" for "less elaborate but carefully prepared meals" this year. But Simon Parkes, a food and travel broadcaster who was for six years a Michelin inspector, agrees. "A lot of people in the metropolis feel the guide is outdated. It is still recommending places with frilly-knicker blinds which smack of success and expense accounts, and are rather brash and nouveau riche. Very 1980s, in fact."

The problem lies not only with the decor, but with the food. "They seem to go for very elaborate meals," says Mr Parkes. "The Union Café in Marylebone does a wonderful risotto but doesn't have a hope in hell of recognition."

The same could be said of the Walnut Tree, near Aberystwyth, which lost its red "M" in 1990 after the chef, Franco Turashko, announced to an inspector that the guide was the bane of British catering. "The food is wonderful, but it doesn't have frou-frou looks and serve nice canapés at a trendy little bar," says Mr Parkes. Mr Turashko's wife, Ann, shudders when she is asked about Michelin. "As far as I'm concerned they don't exist. I'd rather not think about them any longer," she says.

Derek Brown, the guide's editor for 20 years, bristles at accusations that his publication is old-fashioned and unimaginative. "We follow the trends but we don't follow what is trendy," he says. "Many food fads are the talk of the town for a week and then they fade away. We are looking for consistency and some restaurants don't



Marco and Nico celebrate their three Michelin stars

achieve a high standard every time we visit. If customers go to a restaurant expecting a star meal they don't want to be told that things are bad today but they were excellent yesterday."

"Not many so-called ethnic restaurants have food awards, but that's often because such establishments can be unstable. But in any case, the major influence on British cooking is western European and largely French. We don't invent

a meal they will usually introduce themselves, talk to the chef or proprietor and inspect the kitchen. A starred restaurant will have been visited at least a dozen times in 12 months."

According to Mr Parkes, much of the guide's problems are that it is written by people who are innocent of the intricacies of public relations. "I have the greatest respect for the inspectors. They work very hard, but there's a suspicion from the trendy quarters of Notting Hill and Soho that they don't really know what's going on. And the guide isn't exactly an exciting read. It's very dry and very cold, with that exclusionist feel to the pages."

If the inspectorate is determined not to be swayed by the vagaries of fashion, then fashionable restaurants are becoming equally dismissive of the guide. Bibendum in Kensington, London, was cited by everyone I spoke to as a restaurant that has been unjustly deprived of star status. But Matthew Harris, the head chef, is unperturbed by the lack of recognition. "It would be nice to have a star, but it's not something I'm craving," he says.

"I'd rather have a nice, happy, successful restaurant than one where everyone is frightened of the chef and Michelin is the only thing that matters."

Many in the trade agree that star-obsessed chefs fall into debt, are perpetually exhausted and terrified to experiment in case they offend the inspectors' catholicism. And although Michelin stars can lead to lucrative book and television deals, and can be an excuse to raise prices, they have little effect on business if a restaurant is already packed every night.

David Adlard, at Adlard's in Norwich, who lost his one star two years ago and has just regained it, agrees that his status with Michelin makes little difference financially and can bind creatively. "It's true that without a star you can be more flexible in the type of food you serve."

Nonetheless, Mr Adlard is not complaining. "It's the kudos in the industry that matters," he says. "With a star you can puff your chest out and feel good. It may not make any difference to my business but it makes all the difference in my head."

● The 1995 Michelin Red Guide to Hotels and Restaurants in Great Britain and Ireland costs £11.95

The idol's flying feet of clay

Eric Cantona has been football's poet. Now he is its chief thug. Charles Bremner tackles the paradox

We're going to start by showing you some loathsome pictures," the newsreader intoned with a weary air as he opened the broadcast on French television yesterday. The atrocity, it turned out, was in neither Bosnia nor Chechnya, but at Crystal Palace. "Cantona has blown a circuit yet again," the presenter concluded, after screening the latest excess by the Mozart of Manchester United and captain of France.

The tantrums of *Eric le diable*, the philosopher-painter of the football field, are ancient history in France, where a vicious tackle in 1988 launched Cantona on a long career of suspensions. While the French federation promised "draconian punishment" yesterday, the experts were musing on why it took so long for the love affair between Cantona and England to turn sour. He has been sent off often enough since arriving

here in 1992, but indulgence for his brooding, artistic soul has long overridden censure of the other side of what the Gallic sports writers call *le paradox Cantona* — his behaviour as a petulant thug.

Success is part of the explanation. After landing in England in 1992, Cantona helped to take Leeds United and then Manchester to the top, earning himself last year the coveted title of players' player of the year, an award that was exceptional in going not just to a Frenchman, but to a man who was under suspension at the time.

With his haughty Gallic style and existentialist murmurings about life and beauty, Cantona, now 28, has also benefited from his status as an eccentric in the English soccer world. Like Voltaire and other French fugitives from persecution, he has been embraced by the British as a charming and mysterious oddity. This in turn sends the

scribes wheeling references to Joyce and van Gogh and "epigrammatic" footwork into their football commentary.

"England is the only country which puts up with Cantona's idiosyncrasies to the point of worshipping them," says Luc le Vaillant of *Liberation*. The warm welcome has in turn — until now — partly tamed the hothead from Caillots, on the outskirts of Marseilles. "I am in love with Manchester United," he said recently. "It is like finding a wife who has given me the perfect marriage."

An uncontested genius when it comes to kicking leather in the right direction, Cantona is, to put it mildly, an original. How many footballers spend their spare hours daubing canvases and writing poetry, or answer interviewers with quotations from *cinéastes* of the *nouvelle vague*? No others, certainly, have written autobiographies in which they identify themselves with self-destructive rebels such as Jim Morrison, late of the Doors, and Arthur Rimbaud.

In the early years after Cantona burst on the scene, France too was charmed by the charismatic youth with the Pastis-scented twang of Provence. With mountain bandit looks inherited from Sardinian and Catalan grandfathers, he embodied the blend of sensitivity and pent-up violence so highly esteemed on the Left Bank. Pulses raced when he strode the Paris catwalk as a guest model for Paco Rabanne, the couturier.

But for all his genius the *enfant terrible* soon exasperated the Establishment. He was suspended for a year for calling Henri Michel, the national manager, a *sac de merde*. At Montpellier, he fought with team-mates. At Marseilles, he was suspended



Eric Cantona riding a Harley Davidson: "I am in love with Manchester United. It is like finding a wife who has given me the perfect marriage."

The British love the soil, nature. They appreciate the true values'

evenings with his wife, Isabelle, an assistant French teacher at Leeds University, and his adored son Raphael, aged six.

Until Wednesday's outrage at least, French admirers have said England has saved Cantona's soul, allowing him personal peace to be a "loner in search of a dream". In the recent words of George

Scotman, the player's interpreter at Manchester: "Cantona strikes one as a decent, polite, intelligent and compassionate young man as he tries to depict his attitude to life and football. He speaks with sincerity about such notions as *simplicité, vérité, beauté, intégrité, politesse, spontanéité*, and is strongly opposed to *inégalité, misère, pauvreté, insensibilité, injustice* and other social ills."

While Cantona is admired as "the first Frenchman to conquer England since William", he has annoyed his compatriots by gushing about *la vie anglaise*, from the marvellous school attended by Raphael to the healthy British tradition of driving to all matches by coach. He loves, he says, "le fighting spirit... the eager pride which they exude when it comes to defending their colours, or those of the

Crown". That comes from *Un rêve modeste et fou* (A Modest and Crazy Dream), the autobiography titled simply *My Story* in English. Last week he told *Le Figaro*: "The British love the soil, nature, animals. They appreciate the true values, among them sport. My father always made an effort to inculcate these in me. The rest is literature." In words that bear some irony now, he added: "I appreciate the sporting spirit of the supporters."

Ever the lover of paradox, Cantona says he has been so happy at Manchester because he is not expected to belong there. Comparing himself to Morrison, Rimbaud and other brief meteors, he says he defines his existence with the phrase: "*Je suis de passage*." This week's episode may ensure that he has now passed through the British phase.

Sorry, but how should I apologise properly?

Americans know that saying sorry is both a science and an art form

AS A nation, we are famously bad at it. We apologise when we have nothing to apologise for. "Sorry," we say. "Have you got the time?" or "Sorry, but I think we might have met before." We even muddle whether to say "sorry" or "pardon". It is, says Drusilla Beyfus, the etiquette expert and author of *Modern Manners*, a hang-over from a class system in which the middle classes tried to ingratiate themselves with their superiors.

Yet when we need to apologise, most of us cling to Disraeli's maxim of never apologise, never explain. We don't like baring our souls. Well, we might look silly. Anyway, the greatest hypocrites in history and literature, beginning with Uriah Heep, are always saying sorry. Apologising is for wimps and we are almost certain to botch our lines.

How grateful, therefore, we

should be to one Aaron Lazare, dean of the medical school at the University of Massachusetts. Writing in the latest issue of *Psychology Today*, Dr Lazare guides us through the dos and don'ts of modern apologising. There are strict rules to observe and the stakes are high. Failed apologies can strain relationships beyond repair or create lifelong grudges and bitter vengeance, he says.

The key is timing. The swiftness of the apology must be in direct proportion to the seriousness of the injury. Spill a cup of coffee? Apologise immediately. Say something rude? Wait about an hour.

"But if you have invaded another country and tortured or massacred its citizens, then it is wise to delay your apology by about 30 years as Boris Yeltsin did for Stalin's massacre at Katyn Forest in Poland or the Japanese Imperial Army did in the comfort

women' whom they forced into *Brutts*," Dr Lazare writes. Apologise too early and you risk having your apology rejected.

There is no mileage in botched or pseudo-apology, he continues. He cites Richard Nixon's resignation speech in which he combined regretting deeply "any injuries that may have been done", with saying that "if some of my judgments were wrong — and some were wrong — they were made in what I believed at the time to be in the best interests of the nation". Such an apology enraged Nixon's public as he failed to admit specifically that he had done

anything wrong.

A final Lazare tip for those in public life. If you insult publicly, you can't apologise in private.

Dr Lazare's maxims have been welcomed by our home-grown etiquette experts. The Americans, says Miss Beyfus, have much to teach us. America is peopled by such a melting-pot of races in search of correctness that the majority of writers on manners hail from across the pond, Miss Beyfus says — Emily Post, for example.

The Japanese are another nation who are good at apologising at least as far as Japanese business is con-

cerned. A Japanese businessman accused of corruption will publicly apologise as part of his code of honour.

"Apologising has never been more important," Miss Beyfus says. "People are much franker nowadays and generally less considerate. There is a pop psychology emphasis on people speaking their minds. Therefore the ability to apologise properly has become ever more vital."

Even our politicians, it seems, are beginning to learn the importance of apologising after decades of ineptitude. Alistair Burt, the Social Services Minister, was to be heard recently apologising about the inefficiency of the Child Support Agency. Irish politicians too are catching the bug. Cardinal Daly last week in Canterbury said that as spiritual leader of the Irish he wished to apologise to the British.

Miss Beyfus adds several

postscripts to the valuable guidance given by Dr Lazare. While she recognises the need to sometimes delay apologising, this should not mean that an apology is abandoned altogether. "It is an axiom of the truly polite that it is never too late to thank and never too late to apologise," Miss Beyfus says.

SHE stresses that a written apology is especially effective if in doubt. Once you have apologised, she continues, drop the subject. And "do it with dignity. If you grovel, it diminishes the importance of a true apology."

For those stiff upper lips who are still balking at the prospect of a world full of people saying sorry and meaning it, Miss Beyfus says that one category at least is excused from such rules. As the movie *Love Story* famously proclaimed, love means never having to say you're sorry.

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William Waldegrave on the cruelty of politics... and the inability of the public to connect dining and death

'My wife serves veal: she's a cook, after all'

To corroborate William Waldegrave's rational response to the animal fanatics one must turn to Aristotle, who defined the specific difference between the human and the non-human animal as the power of reasoned thought. (The non-human animal has sensation and imagination, but it has no ability to make judgments or form beliefs.)

There are few better examples of thinking man than Waldegrave. Fellow of All Souls, who had formed his first judgments and beliefs by the age of five (if his parliamentary profile is correct) and typed them out in a family newspaper: he was against Nye Bevan and in favour of hanging. "I was a lot more right-wing then," he says.

We were in his immense office at the agriculture ministry (Wad), where he first set foot at 12, when his father, now in his 90th year, was there. He knew when he took on this job that animal welfare was rumbling volcanically, more threatening than set-aside or the fate of fishermen. Calves-in-crates have propelled the British on to the streets in droves. "If I want to depress myself, I recall that one reason this has surged up is that I actually raised animal welfare on the agenda when setting out my stall at the party conference. There is a cruel law in politics that if you move in the direction people want to go, the very extreme lobby gets crosser than if you'd done nothing at all."

Emotion breeds sloppy thinking. "Animal rights" is a bad slogan. It is not a good argument. But human responsibility to dumb creatures is acceptable to all. "It is we who have duties that go with civilised life."

"And we must also recognise the differences between animals themselves. It is perfectly clear that the higher apes have far more complex cognitive powers: but you must not fall into anthropomorphism. Vets may measure the stress of sheep packed in a lorry which rises when they are unloaded; and rationally we observe that sheep, even when in fields, prefer huddling together, buffered by

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



their wool. "Pigs are far more difficult," says Waldegrave. And on we go, through rabbits raised in Chinese shoe-boxes, to frogs which expire in pain after the removal of their delicious cusses.

It reminds me of E.M. Forster's missionaries in *A Passage to India*, discussing the many mansions of the kingdom of heaven: does divine hospitality stop at mankind? Would it include monkeys? Of course. And jackals too? And wasps? Even the advanced young missionary "became uneasy during the descent to wasps". "Madness does lie down that route," says Waldegrave, aware that some believe that an uprooted carrot can feel pain. "We must hold on to rational ground."

"Waldegrave says firmly, 'which is that unnecessary cruelty should be avoided.'"

"Some of this uproar is because people just don't like to think of the connection between what's on their plate, and death."

When a tasty osso bucco was served for him a dinner on Tuesday night, cooked by Maya Even's husband, he was certain it was the humanely-raised variety. "Contrary to what most people think, most Italian veal is really young beef. Some say we should knock them on the head at birth, but that's a real cop-out — they die to no purpose. Great chefs like the Roux brothers are very keen to say that the veal in their kitchens is humanely raised, because the false iron-free diet that makes them anaemic, soft and tender, also makes them tasteless."



William Waldegrave: "I probably lack the political skill of giving a satisfyingly obfuscatory answer... there is skill in talking clearly and simply, and I envy colleagues who are better at it"

Waldegrave looks healthier than he did at Heath, and happier than he did on the Citizens' Charter, as he should be: a Minister of Agriculture who proclaims that some of his best friends are ordinary hardworking farmers.

I was told he had a bad cold (someone suggested jestingly that I should take him some Fishermen's Friend) which he blamed on Brussels and the air-conditioned *froidure* of the Commission. He had returned on the Eurostar train on Tuesday, fortunately missing the fire in the tunnel, bearing the 1995 equivalent of "peace for our time" — an EC agreement to bring forward a review of the use of veal crates.

He attributes this hopeful development to newfound allies, the Scandinavians with their fresh Nordic perspectives. He had expected a stony silence when he pointed out that the issue of humane calf-rearing could not be brushed aside. But to his defence came the formidable female from Denmark. "And then in came the Finn, and in came the Dutchman who said it couldn't happen too soon for him."

"The battle is by no means over yet, but the gathering momentum reminds me of the way environmental issues began to run in the early 1980s."

Though he has reason to be vexed, he refrains from complaint about the press, which pointed out gleefully that his wife includes veal recipes in her *Leith's Cookery Bible* ("she's a cook, for heaven's sake"), and which claimed even more gleefully that the minister himself exports calves destined for torture-crates from his Somerset farm. "I don't own 1,000 acres. I am a shareholder in a tenant farm, which I do not run. It is a perfectly ordinary dairy farm, like 10,000 others. I have not been shipping calves in veal crates. The calves go to market. My manager was honest enough to say he could not guarantee they do not end up in veal crates. I wish I could say our calves don't go to veal crates, but I can't guarantee it unless the rest of Europe abolishes the bloody things."

He was sorry that "my poor brother", the inoffensive, cheese-producing Viscount Chewton, had been drawn into the fray, and was touched by the solidarity of the villagers of Chewton, who formed a *cordon sanitaire* against hordes of newsmen, pretending hayseed ignorance of anyone called Waldegrave.

He was pleased to have been given a Jak cartoon showing him covered in sticking plaster, on the day razor blades were posted to him — because one of the four children in the

drawing looked exactly like his youngest, Harriet. The Waldegraves try to balance work and family life: his wife does the school runs and allows him to choose all her clothes, and at the end of their long working days they may be found playing tennis (they are evenly matched). Only the impossibility of seeing enough of his children causes him to sadly shake his curls.

Lean and abstemious, he cannot compete with Nicholas Soames in shouting about eating for Britain, and he will never please all the famously grouching farmers ("though farmers are doing rather well now, except for the crash in the price of pigs, and the potato shortage"). He had been up at six that morning, to visit the traders at the New Covent Garden Market, and had just

lunched with the bosses of Grand Met, celebrating British supremacy in the drinks industry.

Descendant of two Prime Ministers and a Speaker, incomparably well-connected, he is a highly-bred politician of conspicuous decency whose assumption that others' thought processes are as reasoned as his own can have painful consequences.

Anyone who has children, he says, would have said as he did to a Select Committee that there are circumstances when it is better to lie: at which the sky fell on his head. "I had the following conversation with John Humphrys on the Today programme": JH: "Minister, you seem to have landed yourself

in great trouble here."

WW: "Well, I said what I thought was an obvious truth."

JH: "Well, shouldn't you have said something different?"

WW: "You mean, tell a lie, John?"

"Whereupon he had the grace to laugh."

"I probably lack the political skill," he says, "of giving a satisfyingly obfuscatory answer. But there is a real skill in talking clearly and simply, and I envy colleagues who are better at it." Who? Ken Clarke is good in that respect. And John Prescott.

But what kind of compassion is it that is galvanised so intensely towards calves rather than humans. Like the anti-abortion campaigners in the United States who find no

contradiction in murdering people in the name of life, the animal rights people send him letters with threats more eloquent than razor blades.

"When I was at Harvard in 1970, I heard a lecturer on guerrilla warfare predict that one day animal terrorism would emerge, because all terrorists would be eventually deserted by their constituents, who would say, 'we're sick of you blowing up children in our name, we've had enough'... while animals can never say that." Animal liberation is the ideal populist concern precisely because the victims are dumb, unaware of friends or enemies, and infinitely exploitable.

"On the other hand," he says, "one holds on to the underlying sanity of the population."

Rue Britannia, it's time to go

Poor old Britannia: all those years of standing around in all weathers in draughty, off-the-shoulder draperies, only to be written off as "staid, aggressive and unapproachable". The building society which bears her name has scrubbed her from the logo because it wishes to be seen as "bright, cheerful, progressive and modern": the Anna Rice of financial services rather than Britannia. It is a severe snub for the poor old girl.

In fact, this is the second year running that our national symbol has been denounced. Myself, I put it down to a continuing subconscious reaction against Lady Thatcher, whose image with a trident so memorably decorated the front page of *The Sun* on Election Day 1983. There is something about John Major's Britain which finds it difficult to cope with Britannia (although Teresa Gorman might consider dressing up for her next photo-opportunity with the Lowestoft fishermen).

Last year's attack was from even closer to the centre of the Establishment. A Bank of England wit, Roger Woodley, mounted an investigation of Britannia's credentials for the Bank's admirably cheeky staff magazine, *The Old Lady*. His conclusion was that Britannia was an unsuitable tercentenary image for the Bank, and should retire. Why, he demands, if she conveys British power and confidence, is she sitting down? The building society's logo is almost the only standing Britannia anywhere. Moreover, her outfit is in his view unsuitable in a feminist age, and, worst of all, she is gazing at a pile of obsolete cash. "Don't let us

Libby Purves on whether we should update our national symbol's image

deceive ourselves," says Mr Woodley, "that in an age of electronic funds transfer and a European central bank, the ancient and ambiguous war victim is contemporary."

To Mr Woodley's research I am indebted, though, for her poignant history. Her origins are normally cited as the Charles II image of his mistress, Frances Stewart. Pepys liked the new coin very much, calling it "a pretty thing that he should choose her face to represent Britannia by", rather as if the Prince of Wales were to ask Mrs Parker Bowles to model for a new 50p. But she is far older than that: to the Romans of the 2nd

century, Britannia represented Britain subjugated. She appears on Hadrian's coin of AD119 as a captive, and on later ones as a warlike but defeated Boudicca. It took 1,500 years to forgive her, but after Charles II's innovation her reputation took off.

The 1660 coins have her sitting by the sea with the fleet behind her, spear upright, olive branch at her side (later she took to proffering it, rather anxiously I always think). The Bank replaced the ships with a heap of money: in Victorian times this often turned into a beehive, symbol of industry. The ship came back after the Napoleonic Wars ("Rule Bri-

tannia" was written in 1740), and by the end of the century she had a trident to rule the waves with. By 1890 Daniel Maclise produced the version now on the £20 note, a stout pacific figure bearing a close resemblance to Victoria.

Mr Woodley, after taking a bit of trouble with a better magnifying glass than mine, reports that on the current £10 note she has "a rather baffling expression" and bees buzzing around her bonnet; and on the five she has "a self-confident and youthful appearance, more of a career type, with prominent laurels". On the 50p coin she has a helmet and a lion, but retains her nervous habit of shoving the olive branch out in front of her. On the £10 stamp, by contrast, the olive branch is over her shoulder and the trident pushed aggressively forward; but her arm on the shield gives the worrying impression that she is sitting in a wheelchair.

Obviously, something must be done. Decisions like this are too important to be left to building societies: we must make our minds up whether we want poor old Britannia or not. Maybe a grand gesture is needed. Mr Woodley says that in 1800 it was proposed to erect a gigantic statue of her on the Observatory Hill at Greenwich: 230ft high, she would be "the point from which the world is measured".

The money ran out. But the designs may be still around: maybe the Millennium Commission should have a look. It would, of course, be tasteless to suggest that the future Charles III should ask Mrs Parker Bowles to model. But Mrs Gorman might oblige.



In 1987, Britannia's trident is aggressively pushed out

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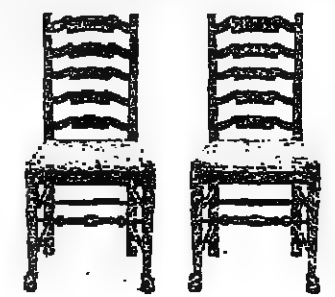
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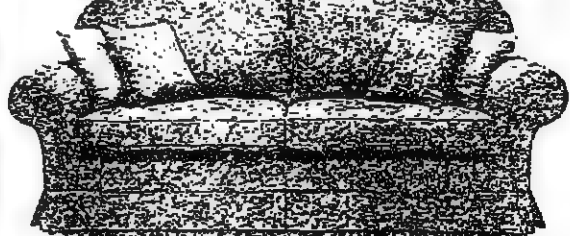
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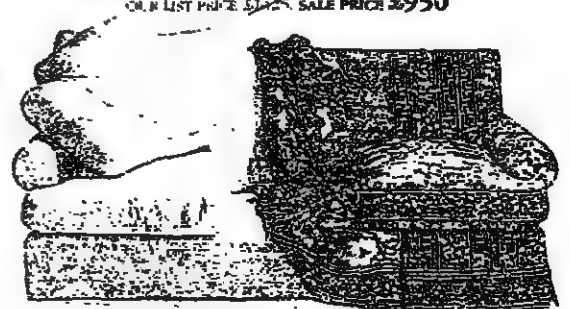
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10



QUESTIONS FOR NOLAN

The public standards committee has made a poor start

Peter Lilley's suggestion that ministers be paid more and backbenchers less is one of the most radical to have been put forward since the current debate on ethical standards in public life began. It can certainly be argued that politicians in ministerial office are underpaid by past standards: the Social Security Secretary was perfectly entitled to make that point again. But his proposal for ordinary parliamentarians was far more challenging. Backbenchers, he said, should have a smaller salary "to encourage them to take outside interests which I believe enriches Parliament".

In November, after weeks of public anxiety about alleged political corruption, the Prime Minister gave warning that the House of Commons must not become a "hiring fair". His high moral tone was bold but seemed to bear scant relation to the complex reality of Parliament in the age of career politicians and lobbyists. Mr Lilley, in contrast, makes a virtue of necessity. He questions the assumption that MPs damage the moral life of Parliament by accepting outside consultancies; he suggests, moreover, that the quality of parliamentary debate is enhanced by the representation of these interests.

This vision of the modern MP as a representative of special interests as well as of a geographic constituency will not find universal favour. It is, however, a realistic vision, in contrast to many of the more sanctimonious claims that have been made about ethical standards in the political world since last year's "cash-for-questions" affair. The reason that more MPs than ever are accepting consultancies and other fees is not because they have suddenly become more corrupt or immoral. It is because their lives have become much more focused upon the life of the House. As government has expanded, as the volume of legislation has increased and constituency work grown, few

politicians have been able to pursue careers outside the Commons. They have turned, therefore, to sources of income which enable them to capitalise on their position in Parliament.

Some would take issue with Mr Lilley and claim that the current system is in need of drastic regulation. As chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, Lord Nolan must listen to both sides. There have been unsettling signs, however, that he has already made up his mind on a number of points. After only three sessions of his committee's hearings, he appeared to have concluded that the rules governing MPs' connection with lobbyists needed to be stricter and that his committee should consider "the possible introduction of an independent element into Parliament's current arrangements for self-regulation". This was an extraordinarily sweeping remark at so early a stage in the proceedings.

Given the exemplary manner in which Sir Richard Scott conducted his own inquiry into the arms-for-Iraq affair, it is odd that Lord Nolan should make this elementary mistake. The Nolan committee cannot afford to appear decided or even predisposed on any point at so early a stage. So far, its proceedings have seemed worryingly ill-focused. There has been little sense of the scale of the questions under consideration nor of the need to construct an intellectual framework within which to make sense of them. The choice of witnesses has been eclectic but eccentric. There has been no real effort to establish first principles or to delve deeply into the historic background to public morality in this country. It is clear that the inquiry needs to commission far more research and must not rely on its hearings alone. Last year, the Prime Minister claimed that the Nolan committee would be an "ethical workshop"; its members still have time to justify his trust.

FRANCE REQUESTS

But EU money is not the answer to Algeria's war

France's attempt to rally its European partners behind the embattled military Government in Algeria is meeting increasing resistance. So too are proposals for Paris for a huge increase in European Union aid to North Africa. Most of France's partners see no immediate threat to their own security. But for the French, the civil-war in Algeria looms large as an immediate threat to their overseas interests and to the large immigrant community of North Africans. Charles Pasqua, the tough Interior Minister, has given warning of a wave of fundamentalist violence on French streets. Others predict the arrival of thousands of refugees fleeing the collapse of pro-Western governments. For the French, the memory of the 8th-century Muslim conquests, finally halted by Charles Martel at Poitiers, is never far away.

Algeria touches too many political nerves in France to allow a neutral stance towards the Islamic insurgency. The loss of the rich North African colony, once seen as an inalienable part of metropolitan France, has long been accepted as a political fact. But the circumstances of the humiliating defeat by FLN guerrillas and the subsequent flight of more than a million colonists are emotional reefs that can shipwreck any government, even 30 years later. Because of its long colonial history, France believes both that it has a peculiarly close relationship with Islam and that it must remain in the vanguard of the fight against the excesses of Islamic radicalism.

France's European partners have been trying quietly to help France out of the cul-de-sac into which its blinkered support for the military government of President Zouari has led it. But the murder of several dozen French citizens, the hijacking of French aircraft and the threat to French in-

terests in North Africa have only deepened the engagement of Paris in a civil war where victory looks increasingly remote. The French foreign ministry has attempted to distance itself from the uncompromising line of M. Pasqua. But election rhetoric makes it impossible for any politician to stand back from the fight against Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) fundamentalism.

Instead, France is now trying to enlist its partners in the crusade. M. Pasqua has publicly criticised Britain, Germany and other EU partners for being too lax in surveillance of FIS activists. France wants to use its presidency of the EU to bolster the position of moderate government by a massive increase in aid to combat unemployment, poverty and social disparities — the ingredients from which Islamic activists fashion their deadly recipe for revolution. France is pressing for a tougher Europe-wide response to fundamentalist terrorism, and is exploiting every informal meeting of EU ministers to write electoral advantage from the agenda.

Britain rightly welcomes a better coordinated approach to terrorism. Indeed, with so many fundamentalist groups now establishing themselves in London, the Government should not be too cavalier in dismissing French warnings about the threat to friendly governments. But this does not mean a blanket endorsement of the other extravagant French proposals. The squandering of money could only fuel the politics of resentment in North Africa. If help is needed, let the southern EU countries open up their markets. France is right to focus attention on Europe's southern neighbours; but not at the expense of what is being achieved in reuniting the eastern half of the Continent with the West.

DON'T MISS THEIR TRICKS

Bridge is not merely a social game

How can a raise impoverish you, a ruff be lethal, a finesse be foolish? Bridge, according to Hilaire Belloc, goes with women and champagne — a disgraceful association which the poet used to satirise corrupt politicians and war profiteers in 1923, but which is nowadays quite enough to recommend it to most of us.

Those who repair to the White House Hotel near Regent's Park today to watch the last day of the Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship will have their share of glamour. The invited experts at this most spectator-friendly of bridge tournaments include that exemplar of elegance, Omar Sharif, whose partner this time is the no less flamboyant Zia Mahmood. Ranged against them are most of the meanest players alive, led by Bob Hamman, the highest rated player in the game. By yesterday afternoon the world's number one pair, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell, had moved up to take the lead, closely followed by two French pairs, the defending champions Adam Zmudzinski and Cezary Balicki of Poland and the best British pair, Tony Forrester and Andrew Robson. The result remains wide open.

Most people, of course, play bridge for fun rather than for gold or blood: the motivations of the professionals remain a mystery. The social pleasures of bridge are, indeed, among its chief attractions. Throwing off its middle-aged image, bridge is now increas-

ingly played among the young. Unlike most indoor and outdoor games, it is equally popular with both sexes; unlike poker, it has always been acceptable at every level of polite society.

World-class bridge is another story. "If the public image of bridge is of a social game that is 85 per cent mindless chit-chat, they are greatly in error," Bob Hamman told *The Times* earlier this week. "It's tough, it's mean, it's a nasty game." That much bridge has in common with its greatest rival, chess. But there the comparison breaks down.

"It's not a game like chess where the best player always wins," argues Mr Hamman. Certainly bridge includes an uncertainty principle that chess lacks, whether one calls it luck or risk-taking. To that extent it is less purely intellectual, and more closely resembles most people's experience of life.

Bridge is also a much newer game than chess: in its modern form, contract bridge, it dates only from the 1920s. It is thus a game that is still in its infancy; hence Mr Hamman's remark: "There's lots of room for everybody to get better in the game. The best player plays terribly and the rest play worse." By supporting the Macallan Championship, *The Times* intends to help the worst players as well as the best to come up trumps. Kibitzing (looking over the shoulders of the experts) is instructive as well as enjoyable. And for all of us, that elusive grand slam is just round the corner.

Future of British nuclear industry

From Dr Mary Archer, Chairman, National Energy Foundation, and others

Sir, While the media are focusing attention on the issue of shares in the power generators, decisions made in the next few months concerning the future of the nuclear industry could have greater significance for how Britain produces its energy needs well into the next century.

Today, Britain's nuclear industry keeps around 100,000 people in work, is a major export earner and supplies almost one third of Britain's electricity. The industry's future, though, has been dogged by uncertainty for five years and is currently undergoing a review by the Government.

When Sizewell B, Britain's first pressurised water reactor, comes on line in a few months, the nuclear industry's contribution to electricity supply is set to increase. However, without a continuing government commitment to the industry, and by that we do not necessarily mean financial, the nuclear industry's share of the electricity market could decline to around 3 per cent by 2020, as existing plants are decommissioned.

There is a strong case for the maintenance of the nuclear industry's existing market share of electricity supply and for the building of new nuclear power stations. By maintaining the nuclear industry at roughly its current level Britain will be able to maintain a balance of energy options including gas, coal and renewable energy sources. Such an approach would give Britain security of electricity supply.

Failure on this point could result in this country being over-reliant, early next century, on gas. Two thirds of the world's gas reserves are based in the politically turbulent regions of Russia and the Middle East.

Research last summer by Gallup for the British Nuclear Industry Forum, which we support, reveals that over 90 per cent of the public approve the need for a balanced energy approach. Over half the public believe that nuclear should be included in a balanced energy portfolio.

Yours faithfully,
MARY ARCHER
(Chairman, National Energy Foundation),
GAVIN LAIRD
(General Secretary, Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union),
CECIL PARKINSON
(Secretary of State for Energy, 1987-89),
WAKEHAM
(Secretary of State for Energy, 1989-92),
WILLIAM WEIR
(Chairman, The Weir Group, Plc),
British Nuclear Industry Forum,
22 Buckingham Gate, SW1,
January 24.

Red Cross appeal

From Mr John Hines

Sir, Your editorial, "A mission to care" (January 16), notes that volunteer membership of the Red Cross has fallen from 200,000 to 90,000 in the last ten years.

Sadly, this is, to some extent, a self-inflicted wound. One cause has been the imposition of compulsory retirement ages for some volunteer jobs regardless of whether those concerned are capable of carrying on. Also local volunteers may have become disenchanted and left because of policy changes forced on them by central management.

Your editorial mentions the lending of wheelchairs and medical equipment. However, on orders from headquarters, as from this month the range of equipment which can be loaned will be reduced and charges will be made in all cases, regardless of the circumstances. Thus someone requiring a wheelchair will be charged £5 per week plus a deposit.

Our branch has always supplied such items without charge to local people. Our delivery note mentions that donations will be welcome and, in the main, borrowers have responded generously.

The new cost-dominated policy of charging runs contrary, I believe, to the ethos of the Red Cross. After 20 years of delivering medical equipment I am seriously considering becoming yet another volunteer to leave.

I do not expect "RC" to grind to a halt as a result and I wish it well, especially with its international work, but I shall consider my leaving a sad decision which has rather been forced on me by RC policy and management.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HINES,
Flat 3, 20 Pevensey Road,
St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex,
January 17.

From Mr Andrew Sewell

Sir, Today's leader reminds those of us who were prisoners of war that, in addition to the community services carried out by the Red Cross, we were provided with food parcels and communication links, which had quite of ten to surmount considerable obstacles. We will no doubt be remembering thankfully our release from captivity 50 years ago, in my case in August 1945. I suggest, therefore, that we should all make a contribution to the appeal on this anniversary in memory of the help and encouragement we received in our time of need.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW SEWELL,
Bay House, Aldbourne,
Marlborough, Wiltshire,
January 16.

Senior executives' pay in the privatised industries

From Mr Gavin Peck

Sir, The Government's trust in the power of shareholders to curb senior executives' pay is misplaced.

Institutions are the largest shareholders in the stock market and their chief executives are themselves highly paid. They are therefore hardly well placed to urge moderation on the management of companies in which they have invested. In fact, it is probably in the interests of those who occupy the high ground to encourage others to "dash for cash", if only to spread the opprobrium.

If the Government is sufficiently concerned it might consider a tax regime which actively encourages personal investment in companies, rather than investment through the wholesale medium of the institutions. A broader spread of direct share ownership would be more effective than pay legislation, which has been shown to be unworkable, or the matter being left to the tender mercies of a network of corporate remuneration committees.

Yours faithfully,
GAVIN PECK,
Brown's Farm, Pound Green,
Ramsdell, Basingstoke, Hampshire,
January 25.

From Mr Stephen Gratwick, QC

Sir, So far as I can recall, Mr Graham Dixon's letter (January 24) about British Gas is the first public pronouncement by a person who has been adversely affected by privatisation to acknowledge its advantages.

This country has been afflicted since World War Two, especially by the Labour Party, with the politics of envy. Where does it come from? The position of top management is arduous and precarious, and deserving of a commensurate reward.

It is the public duty of the Conser-

vative Party to assert this truth: and not to give way to the clamour of those who envy such salaries. How many of those sitting on the Opposition benches would be capable of running a business like British Gas: let alone running it as successfully as Cedric Brown has done?

Our children should be taught in their schools that the high salaries of such as Cedric Brown set a target for all to aim at: not something for those who cannot achieve it to whinge about.

Yours faithfully,
S. GRATWICK,
Greenmantle,
Parkfield, Sevenoaks, Kent,
January 24.

From Mr Tudor Gates

Sir, Bosses of privatised industries often justify their huge salary increases by the levels of their companies' profitability. That profitability may be obtained by inflicting huge job-losses among their workforces.

Those who lose their jobs obtain benefits paid for by the taxpayers. How then, have we profited by privatisation?

Yours faithfully,
TUDOR GATES (Vice-President),
Broadcasting, Entertainment,
Cinema and Theatre Union,
111 Wardour Street, W1.

From Mr Eric Clark

Sir, Those awarding themselves huge pay rises might spare a moment to reflect on the example — and words — of Lord Trenchard in 1931.

He was about to be appointed Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police at a time when constables were being forced to take pay cuts because of the economic situation. So desperate, though, was the Government for Trenchard to take the post that he was

advised he could demand more than the statutory salary. Refusing, Trenchard reportedly said: "You talk of equality of sacrifice as though it didn't apply to the boss."

Words to frame in the offices of the heads of British Gas and other utilities?

Yours sincerely,
ERIC CLARK,
174 Osborne Villas,
Hove, East Sussex.

From Mr H. F. Harte

Sir, Might I ask Cedric Brown whether he had to compete for the post of chief executive of British Gas when it was privatised? You report him today as stating, in justification of his pay increase, that his job had become more stressful since he was appointed in 1992. How do we know that he is qualified to overcome this stress? If he is, then why did he stay in British Gas for so long when he could have gone elsewhere and earned a significantly higher salary?

Yours faithfully,
H. F. HARTE,
Leafield, Dunsells Lane,
Ropley, Alresford, Hampshire,
January 25.

From Mrs A. H. Sinclair

Sir, According to the Ministry of Defence, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose is paid £68,368 annually. Mr Mike Newmarch, who is leaving the Prudential Corporation (report, January 24), was paid £534,068 last year. We could have ten lieutenant-generals for the same salary and still have change to employ, at a reasonable income, a private-sector chief executive.

Yours faithfully,
AMANDA SINCLAIR,
2 Hostel Hill, Dartmouth, Devon.

Public life inquiry

From Lord Nolan

Sir, Sir Jerry Wiggin, MP (letter, January 25), has gained the impression, from remarks of mine summarising some of the effects of the vast amount of evidence which my committee has received during the last three months, that we have already reached our conclusions. That is not the case. We shall reach no conclusions until we have received and considered all of the evidence.

Sir Jerry also complains that no letter was sent to individual Members of Parliament, inviting comments. In fact, a copy of our document, "Issues and Questions", which includes a request for help and advice, was sent to every Member of Parliament following its publication on December 6. I am sorry that Sir Jerry did not receive his copy and have arranged for another to be sent to him.

His letter also said that the document had not been placed in the library of the House. He has now courteously sent me a personal letter explaining that he was misinformed over this matter and apologising for the mistake. Copies were sent to the library at the same time as to Members of Parliament.

I hope that we may now look forward to receiving Sir Jerry's views on the very important and difficult issues which we face.

Yours faithfully,
NOLAN
(Chairman), Committee on
Standards in Public Life,
Horse Guards Road, SW1,
January 26.

Walker's memorial

From Ms Susan Pape

Sir, Alfred Wainwright hoped that after he died he might be permitted to come down occasionally and flap his wings over Haystacks, one of his many beloved hills in the Lake District. No doubt he's now flapping his wings in frustration over the Lake District National Park's petty-minded and blinkered refusal to allow him a memorial (report, January 19).

To say that a landmark bearing his name at Orrest Head (from where Wainwright first viewed the Lakes) would "clutter up the area" is an insult to the great man who opened up the area and its beauty to thousands of followers.

Why not a simple stone near Innominate Tarn where his ashes are scattered? I doubt whether anyone would object on the grounds it was the "urbanisation of the countryside".

Whatever, Wainwright's memory will survive on the fells decades after petty park officials have gone to their great planning meeting in the sky.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN PAPE,
48 Rawdon Road,
Horsforth, Leeds, West Yorkshire,
January 19.

This sporting life

From Mr Roger FitzGerald

Sir, It has become far too easy for footballers to get into the stands (reports, January 26). Fences must be put back up around our football pitches as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER FITZGERALD,
7a Holly Bush Lane,
Sevenoaks, Kent,
January 26.

Tory rebels

From Mr A. J. Wilde

Sir, The rebel Tory MPs (reports, January 20) appear not to realise just how tiresome and exasperating they have become. I watch their antics on TV and see their unrealistic views gleefully taken up in the newspapers.

As a Tory voter, I despair at the certainty that, if they continue to divide the party, they will achieve nothing except that at the next election the Conservatives will be consigned to opposition. Is this what they really want?

Yours faithfully,
A. J. WILDE,
29 Florida Fields,
Castle Cary, Somerset,
January 20.

From Mr David Clarke

Sir, Despite its contention the letter from Tom King and his fellow MPs (January 20) does not speak for the vast majority of Conservatives. I imagine it is the nine rebels who do this.

We detest the way the Maastricht Treaty was forced through the House of Commons without any mandate. We view with horror the way the federal concept of Brussels has already usurped the powers and authority of

many of our institutions. We do not see why British rights and authority should be endlessly signed away despite pledges to the contrary: if only the words of the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary were matched by their actions.

Sadly at present we have a Cabinet which is out of touch with Conservative opinion in the country. This applies to many issues but most certainly Europe. In short those MPs who signed should realise that the Prime Minister's present negotiating position does not inspire us with any great confidence.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CLARKE,
Woodlands,
Marshall Lane,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire,
January 20.

From Mr Rex Bellamy

Sir, Rebellious Conservative MPs probably speak for the bulk of the population. They also expound the basic policies of the UK Independence Party. Perhaps they should join it.

Yours faithfully,
REX BELLAMY,
8 Guillards Oak, Midhurst, Sussex,
January 20.

River pollution

From Councillor Joyce Edmond Smith

Sir, Claims by the National Rivers Authority (NRA) that councils will "sit on their hands" in respect of contaminated land (report, January 17) are unsubstantiated and unhelpful. They also show a disappointing lack of understanding about the framework for environmental protection in England and Wales.

First, the NRA has misunderstood the provisions of the Environment Bill, currently before Parliament. Local authorities will be required to identify contaminated land and to enforce its remediation following advice from the proposed Environment Agency.

Where contaminated land is found to cause serious pollution of controlled waters, it will be designated as a special site and action will be the responsibility of the agency, acting in its role as successor to the NRA, and not local authorities as suggested.

Secondly, action by local authorities is accountable to locally elected mem-

bers, a discipline the agency will not enjoy. Consequently, local authorities will always be more accessible than national agencies and it will continue to be to local authorities that people turn when other enforcement agencies are found wanting.

Finally, the record of local authorities in returning contaminated land to appropriate use is an enviable one, despite using limited powers and resources, while the Bill now seeks to improve. Partnership between enforcement agencies, where each recognises the contribution of the others to shared objectives, is the key to effective pollution control.

Local government will seek to work with, and not against, the agency and I very much hope that the stance of the NRA is not an indication that the agency will do otherwise.

Yours faithfully,
JOYCE EDMOND SMITH
(Chair, Environment and Health Committee),
Association of District Councils,
26 Chapter Street, SW1,
January 19.

Church and 'socialism'

From Miss Rachel Tingle and the Reverend Melvin Tinker

Sir, Contrary to those clerics who have taken issue with the chaplain of Eton, Mr John Witheridge (letters, January 17, 19), for suggesting that in recent years the Church of England has come to espouse a whole host of "socialist" causes, our analysis shows that he has got it absolutely right.

A few years ago we published a study of the growing involvement of the Anglican Church in secular politics. It concluded that the Church of England was focusing more and more attention on secular political issues rather than matters of faith or morality, and that it showed a pronounced tendency to advocate left-wing solutions to political problems.

Recent utterances from bishops on public occasions show little has changed. The Right Reverend Michael Nazir-Ali, in his recent enthronement as the Bishop of Rochester, for instance, emphasised the importance of

social justice, and said that resources should be "fairly... shared out according to need as well as ability".

Likewise at Christmas the Archbishop of Canterbury chose to interpret the message of the incarnation as a challenge to our "accepted notions of power and authority... that in his love for all people, God has a particular concern for the poor and disadvantaged".

The British people can hear all this from their politicians. What we need from bishops is clear teaching on the glorious Christian message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Yours sincerely,
RACHEL TINGLE (Director),
MELVIN TINKER (Trustee),
Christian Studies Centre,
8 Victoria Square, SW1,
January 19.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

LOUIS HEREN

IAN PRESTT



PERSONAL COLUMN

[illegible]

to Kingsley, F. D. Maurice, Hughes and later to John Richard many others, he was a real friend. Summer evenings which they used to spend at his hospitable house at Reading are a charming retrospect to

ed that the Macmillans should
antage of an opening in Cambridge
his assistance Daniel Macmillan b
by's business in Trinity-street,
ed thither. Before the end of the ye
Aldersgate-street shop was aban

and both brothers set up in Cambridge, where, in 1845, they bought another business, that of Mr. Stevenson. At Cambridge the brothers made their home; there they married—Alexander taking to wife the sister of George Brimley, the essayist—and there in 1857 Daniel died. In the next year Alexander opened a branch in London at 23, Henrietta-street, and in 1863 the head-quarters of the firm were removed to 16, Bedford-street, Covent-garden, the retail business being kept at Cambridge, under the name of Macmillan and Bowes. It may be mentioned as an indication of the rapid growth of the business that, whereas in 1845 the firm published eight books and pamphlets, it published 16 in 1850, 44 in 1855 and 102 in 1863. The numbers then increased "by leaps and bounds," both in the direction of general literature and in that of science, and the output of the firm is enormous.

Alexander and his own particular group of authors had a strong mutual attraction for each other; to Kingsley, F. D. Maurice, Thomas Hughes and later to John Richard Green and many others, he was a real friend. The long summer evenings which they and others used to spend at his hospitable house as they sat in the garden, smoking retrospects to those whose privilege it was to share them . . .

NEWS

Auschwitz dispute is patched up

A dispute between nations and religions that threatened to disrupt commemorations of the fiftieth anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz appeared to have been patched up. Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace laureate and a former camp inmate, called for a much tougher wording of a "declaration for peace and tolerance" to be issued by Nobel prizewinners led by President Walesa of Poland. Pages 1, 8

Eric Cantona faces suspension

Eric Cantona, the Manchester United player and enfant terrible of football, was charged by the Football Association with bringing the game into disrepute following his assault on a Crystal Palace fan. Cantona seems certain to be dropped from the French national team and faces possible criminal charges over the incident. Page 1

Regions opposed

The public opposes Labour's proposals for creating regional assemblies in England, which are central to the party's plans for devolution. Pages 1, 9

Cabinet sceptical

A Cabinet meeting agreed to adopt a broadly Eurosceptic approach to the critical negotiations on the future of the European Union that will climax at the intergovernmental conference of 1996. Page 2

Forecasters blamed

Forecasters were blamed for disruption that paralysed much of northern England after unexpected heavy snow caught thousands of drivers on their way home from work and left at least four people dead. Page 3

Dealers accused

The French are accusing a group of British dealers of smuggling an important Tiffany vase to New York. Page 3

School violence

Teaching unions are increasingly alarmed at suggestions that the number of violent incidents at schools and assaults on staff is rising. Page 5

Philately fraud

One of Britain's leading stamp dealers was fined £30,000 for masterminding a fraud operation. Alan Wilson was given a suspended sentence. Page 6

Going, going... over the boundary

Even the chap from Lord's turned up at Bond Street to bid for the cricket memorabilia amassed by a Birmingham dentist called Hal Cohen. It is the finest trove of its kind to come on the market in 30 years. "Lot 115, a pencil and gouache picture 'In the Pavilion Enclosure' by Sir Robert Ponsonby Staples has gone home to Lord's," said the auctioneer. Page 1

Nurse's job saved

The nurse who removed a patient's appendix in an operation for which she had no formal training will keep her job. Page 7

Danger meat

A report to be issued by Spain's leading animal rights organisation warns that most Spanish meat and sausages can damage people's health because animals are illegally fattened with huge doses of chemicals. Page 10

Tamil agreement

After 12 years of war and more than 30,000 dead on all sides, the Tamil Tigers have offered to drop their demand for a separate Tamil homeland. Page 11

Bill watered down

The House of Representatives looked set to water down the first radical Bill in Newt Gingrich's Contract with America requiring the Government to balance its books by 2002. Page 12

OJ attack

The leading lawyer for O.J. Simpson and one of the most prominent black attorneys in America, plans to launch a fierce attack on the Los Angeles Police. Page 12

Yeltsin peace pledge

President Yeltsin pledged an early end to the Chechen war, as a general dismissed for refusing to command the invasion condemned the Defence Ministry for bad planning. Page 13



A Victorian image of cricket, "In the Pavilion enclosure", which was bought for the Lord's museum for £14,950 at auction. Page 1

Drug wars: Wellcome, the pharmaceutical group, formally rejected an £8.9 billion bid from Glaxo, its rival. Page 21

Telephones: Cable & Wireless, the British telecommunications group, has formed a strategic telecoms alliance with Veba, the German electricity group. Page 21

Denial: Saatchi & Saatchi has denied all knowledge of the campaign of nuisance telephone calls that have plagued friends and relatives of four former top executives since they quit the advertising group a fortnight ago. Page 21

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 25.1 to 3007.3. Sterling's index remained unchanged at 80.1 after a rise from \$1.5903 to \$1.5935 but a fall from DM2.4141 to DM2.4105. Page 24

Cricket: Led by an innings of 80 from their captain, Michael Atherton, England scored 196 for two on the opening day of the fourth Test match against Australia. Page 38

Equestrianism: Everest Double Glazing, the leading British showjumping sponsor for nearly 30 years, is withdrawing its support at the end of the year. Page 34

Golf: Mats Hallberg, who is ranked No 623, led a field containing six of the world's top ten after the first round of the Johnnie Walker Classic in Manila. Page 34

Tennis: Arantxa Sánchez Vicario and Mary Pierce will meet in the women's singles final of the Australian Open. Neither of them has dropped a set or been taken to a tie-break. Page 37

Easter rising: Strindberg's drama, *Easter*, has been superbly revived, in flickering gaslight, by the Royal Shakespeare Company. The RSC has also announced that next season it will be expanding to include the Young Vic. Page 31

Pen portraits: Irving Penn's evocative photographs of British tradesmen in 1950 have gone on show in London. Page 32

Bryner at 80: One of the leading clarinetists in British musical life for more than half a century, Jack Bryner celebrated his 80th birthday by playing concerts at the Barbican. Page 32

Pop on Friday: Simple Minds are back, or at least two of them are. Plus the new albums, and Caitlin Moran on Brats Awards. Page 31

William Weldegrave: "We must hold onto rational ground which is that unnecessary cruelty should be avoided", the Agriculture Minister tells Valerie Grove. Page 15

Star quality: Is it true that the Michelin guide favours tilly curtains and frilly food? Page 14

Eric Cantona: Charles Bremner on the man who fights with teammates and throws shirts at the referee. Page 14

Rule Britannia: Libby Purves looks at the changing faces of our national symbol. Page 15

Streetwise: Everything from Sesame Street to imitation portable computers is now available as a starter system. Page 29

Alarms: Forgetting to take a pill may be a thing of the past if the sleeping bottle becomes popular. Page 29

IN THE TIMES

SHEER PLEASURE
High-fashion underwear: some elegant looks that are best undressed

REVIEWS
Jonathan Meades on an Italian in Tunbridge Wells; Lynne Truss on "personology"

TV LIST

Preview: Nigel Le Vaillant plays a police surgeon in a series set in Warwickshire. *Dangerfield* (BBC, 9.30pm) **Review:** Matthew Bond finds Jennifer Saunders less than chameleon-like in her portrayal of Lady Hester Stanhope. Page 4

OPINION

Questions for Nolan

Last year, the Prime Minister claimed that the Nolan committee would be an "ethical workshop"; its members still have time to justify his trust. Page 17

France requests

France is right to focus attention on Europe's southern neighbours, but not at the expense of what is now being achieved in reuniting the eastern half of the continent with the West. Page 17

Don't miss their tricks

Most people play bridge for fun rather than for gold or blood; the motivations of the professionals are a mystery. Page 17

BERNARD LEVIN

Exactly 50 years ago I discovered what the world could not have believed until then - that had the Second World War been lost, I and all my family, together with every other Jewish family in Britain, would have been murdered. Page 16

JAMES GOLDSMITH

The federalists, without altering their ultimate objective, were forced to change their tactics. They have returned to dissimulation, misinformation and asphyxiation of public debate. Page 16

PETER RIDDELL

The Tories may have to wait some time for any sustained revival in their fortunes in the opinion polls. There could still be bumpy times ahead for Mr Major. Page 9

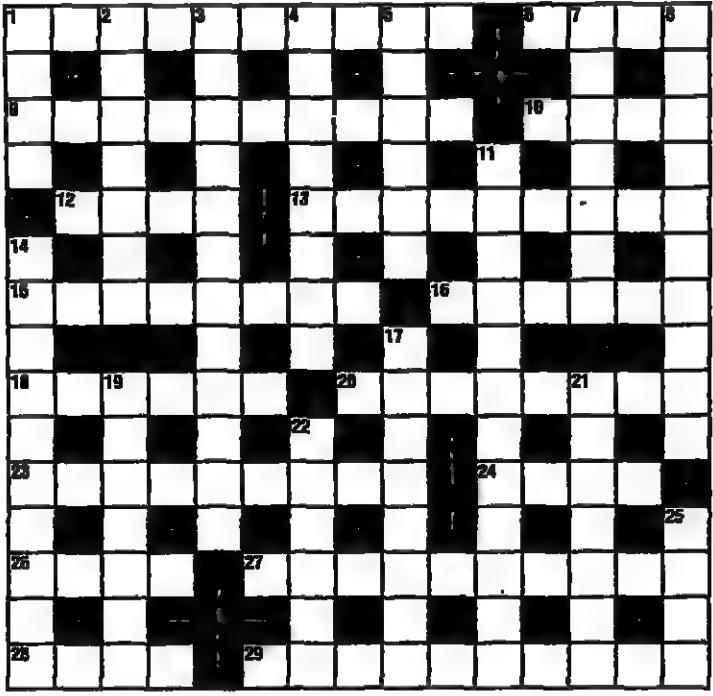
LOUIS HEREN

Louis Heren, former foreign correspondent and deputy editor of *The Times*; Ian Preece, director general and president of the RSPB; Marjorie van der Post, biographer and first wife of Sir Laurens van der Post. Page 19

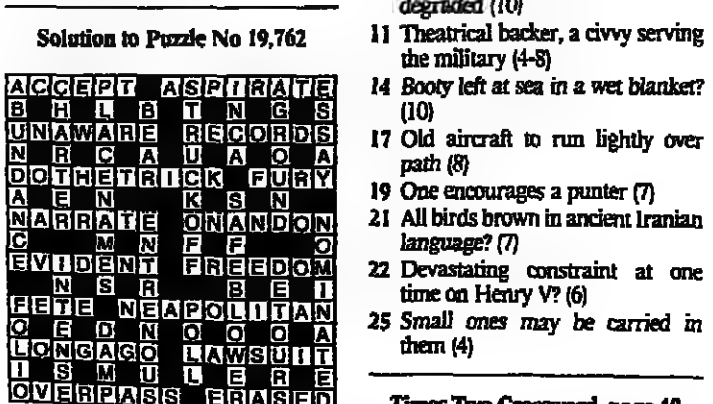
DR MARY ARCHER

Dr Mary Archer on nuclear industry; senior executives' pay; the Red Cross appeal; pollution of rivers; Lord Nolan on his committee's work. Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,763



- ACROSS**
- One who cracks up? (3,7)
 - Daughter to Lincoln, retired (4)
 - Wool-bearing sea lion fur? That is crazy! (10)
 - Steady business (4)
 - Temporary cover for red wine (4)
 - Septimus Harding starting to cut wood (3,6)
 - Intellectual head of faculty - university don, it turns out (8)
 - Things that serve to animate young men (6)
 - Book a first-class return during his trip? (6)
 - Appropriate for Yorkshire spa not to open (8)
 - Hull to accumulate such a lot of domestic rubbish? (5-4)
 - Wolf song invented? (4)
- DOWN**
- Something sworn in cry of pain (4)
 - Low flier where a tar's at sea (10)
 - Directed, we hear, in breach of duty (4)
 - Sketches for naughty pictures (10)
 - Cabbage king (4)
 - Hybrid fruit of strong flavour the Spanish love (7)
 - An album of the new style is incomprehensible (12)
 - After semi-globe, the ordinary sailor is going round in circles (8)
 - Euterpe, for example, died delighted (6)
 - Excellent piece of play in Dublin-Derry meeting (7)
 - Girl with short skirt to take off is degraded (10)
 - Theatrical backer, a civvy serving the military (4-8)
 - Boaty left at sea in a wet blanket? (10)
 - Old aircraft to run lightly over path (8)
 - One encourages a punter (7)
 - All birds brown in ancient Iranian language? (7)
 - Devastating constraint at one time on Henry V? (6)
 - Small ones may be carried in them (4)



FORECAST

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, call 0800 500 1000 followed by appropriate code.

Region	Code	Forecast
North East	100	Cloudy with rain, then sun. Max 10C (50F).
North West	101	Cloudy with rain, then sun. Max 10C (50F).
Yorkshire & the Humber	102	Cloudy with rain, then sun. Max 10C (50F).
East of England	103	Cloudy with rain, then sun. Max 10C (50F).
West of England	104	Cloudy with rain, then sun. Max 10C (50F).
South East	105	Cloudy with rain, then sun. Max 10C (50F).
South West	106	Cloudy with rain, then sun. Max 10C (50F).
Wales	107	Cloudy with rain, then sun. Max 10C (50F).
Scotland	108	Cloudy with rain, then sun. Max 10C (50F).
Ireland	109	Cloudy with rain, then sun. Max 10C (50F).

WINDSPEEDS

For the latest AA traffic forecasts, 24 hours a day, call 0300 401 1000 followed by appropriate code.

Area	Code	Forecast
London & the South East	200	Clear, dry, bright. Max 10C (50F).
East of England	201	Clear, dry, bright. Max 10C (50F).
West of England	202	Clear, dry, bright. Max 10C (50F).
South East	203	Clear, dry, bright. Max 10C (50F).
South West	204	Clear, dry, bright. Max 10C (50F).
Wales	205	Clear, dry, bright. Max 10C (50F).
Scotland	206	Clear, dry, bright. Max 10C (50F).
Ireland	207	Clear, dry, bright. Max 10C (50F).

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Wednesday: Highest day temp: Oxford, Hampshire, 13C (55F); lowest day temp: Ayr, Scotland, 10C (50F); Highest rainfall: Jersey, 1.5 in; highest sunshine: Aberdeen, 11h.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Location	Sun rises	Sun sets
London	7:47 am	4:40 pm
Aberdeen	7:47 am	4:40 pm

General situation: rain will spread from the west into all parts. Scotland will start dry and bright, apart from a few showers in the northwest. Sleet or snow will spread north and east after midday and turn to rain. Northern Ireland brighter later in the day, with showers. England and Wales brighter and drier later in the day. Windy, but becoming steadily milder.

London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, Central N: cold start, any mist clearing. Cloud thickening with rain. Winds S and SW strong to gale. Max 10C (50F).

Central S England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England: cloud thickening, rain, preceded by sleet, spreading from the west. Clearer but showy later. Wind SW, strong to gale. Max 10C (50F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: cloudy with sleet turning to rain. Brightening later with showers, some heavy. Winds SE becoming SW fresh to strong. Max 8C (46F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Central Highlands, NW Scotland: cloudy with sleet or snow turning to rain. Wind SE strong to gale, becoming SW fresh to strong. Max 6C (43F).

Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: showers dying out, further rain, sleet or snow later. Wind SW strong, locally gale. Max 6C (43F).

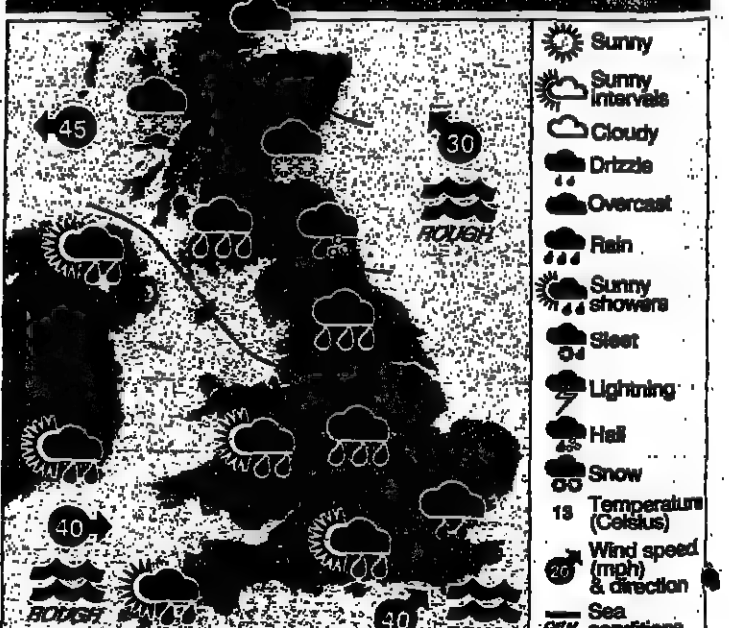
OUTLOOK: turning brighter and showy for a time, but further rain will spread from the west.

WINDSPEEDS

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Caswell Bay	114	Cloudy with rain, then sun. Max 10C (50F).
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Chichester	116	Cloudy with rain, then sun. Max 10C (50F).
Colwyn Bay	117	Cloudy with rain, then sun. Max 10C (50F).
Consett	118	Cloudy with rain, then sun. Max 10C (50F).
Doncaster	119	Cloudy with rain, then sun. Max 10C (50F).
Dorchester	120	Cloudy with rain, then sun. Max 10C (50F).
Edinburgh	121	Cloudy with rain, then sun. Max 10C (50F).
Exeter	122	Cloudy with rain, then sun. Max 10C (50F).
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Farnley	125	Cloudy with rain, then sun. Max 10C (50F).
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Farnley	128	Cloudy with rain, then sun. Max 10C (50F).
Farnley	129	Cloudy with rain, then sun. Max 10C (50F).
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TEMPERATURES

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Changes to chart below from noon: low G will drift eastwards and fill, as a new centre develops to the east of it along its front



TEMPERATURES

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Caswell Bay	114	Cloudy with rain



FISHING FURORE 25

Fight is on to save an industry everyone forgot



ARTS 31-33

Why are the Brats awards so boring, asks Caitlin Moran



SPORT 34-40

Old hands carry England through testing first day

UNDER-VALUED
AFTER THE
AGE OF 40?
Infotech 28, 29

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY JANUARY 27 1995

Wellcome board rejects Glaxo bid

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

WELLCOME, the drugs company, has refused to endorse a £9.4 billion bid from its rival Glaxo, and urged its biggest shareholder to hold out for a better offer.

In a statement yesterday, the board of Wellcome said that the Glaxo bid was inadequate and that it had asked the Wellcome Trust, which owns 39.5 per cent of the shares and had conditionally accepted the offer, not to make a commitment to accept it.

Wellcome's shares shot up 32p to close last night at 986p on hope of a higher offer.

Although Wellcome said that it was actively exploring opportunities of achieving a better offer, few companies could afford to bid higher, and analysts said that it was most unlikely that another firm would step in.

The Glaxo offer for Wellcome is final, and cannot be

amended unless there is a rival bid.

Wellcome did acknowledge that a takeover, in one form or another, was now inevitable. The statement said: "The Wellcome board accepts the clear realities of the situation and the fact that the Trust has decided to dispose of its shareholding."

John Robb, Wellcome's chairman and chief executive, said: "Some form of change in the structure of Wellcome is likely as a result of this development. It is unlikely that we shall be the same as we were last Friday night."

He said that he was disappointed that Robert Fleming, the merchant bank advising the Trust, had advised it to refuse a requested meeting with the firm.

Glaxo launched its bid on Monday after obtaining, on Sunday, the Trust's agreement

Cadbury makes formal offer

BY MARTIN WALLER



David Wellings yesterday said the deal will create the world's largest non-cola producer

CADBURY SCHWEPPE'S, the confectionery group, is bidding \$33 a share for Dr Pepper, the American soft drinks business, and asking its shareholders to stump up £395 million in fresh funds to help pay for the deal.

But an innovative alternative to last year's final dividend has trimmed the amount that Cadbury needs to find, including £23 million that would otherwise be due in advance corporation tax.

Cadbury has launched a one-for-seven rights issue at 340p, to raise the £395 million, and is adding £109 million to its borrowings. The deal follows reports at the weekend of merger talks between Cadbury and Dr Pepper, the third largest soft drinks company in the US and owner of the Seven-Up brand, that were subsequently confirmed by the British company.

Cadbury at the start of the week had talked of issuing new equity worth £500 million. The smaller size of the rights in the event sent the company's share price, which had fallen on Monday, ahead by 23p to 422p.

The total cost of buying the 77 per cent of Dr Pepper Cadbury does not already own, including assumed debt, is £1.6 billion.

David Wellings, Cadbury's chief executive, said the deal fulfilled the group's aim to become the largest non-cola brand owner in the world. Cadbury has buttressed the deal by releasing an estimate of pre-tax profits for the year to end-December. These rose from £416.3 million in 1993 to at least £475 million, after £23 million of restructuring costs, while earnings per share increased from 30.59p to 31.3p.

The company will pay an 11p second interim dividend in place of a final, making a total of 15.6p, an 8.3 per cent increase. But shareholders who take up the underwritten scrip dividend alternative can eventually opt to receive between 14.7p, guaranteed by the scheme's underwriters, and 16.5p.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES			
FT-SE 100	3007.3	(+25.1)	
Yield	4.30%		
FT-SE All-Share	1488.05	(+3.48)	
Nikkei	18070.84	(-88.64)	
New York			
Dow Jones	3881.89	(-9.78)	
S&P Composite	457.79	(+0.25)	
US RATES			
Federal Funds	5.40%	(0.75%)	
Long Bond	6.50%	(0.50%)	
Yield	7.57%	(7.57%)	
LONDON MONEY			
3-month Interbank	8.10%	(8.10%)	
Libor 3m	10.1%	(10.10%)	
STERLING			
New York	1.8913	(1.8913)	
London			
\$	1.8921	(1.8921)	
DM	2.4156	(2.4156)	
FF	6.3390	(6.3390)	
Sfr	2.0278	(2.0278)	
Yen	158.06	(158.06)	
£ index	80.1	(80.1)	
DOLLAR			
London			
DM	1.5130	(1.5170)	
FF	5.2405	(5.2485)	
Sfr	1.2738	(1.2778)	
Yen	99.33	(99.32)	
£ index	82.4	(82.5)	
Tokyo close Yen 98.54			
NORTH SEA OIL			
Brent 15-day (Apr)	\$16.55	(\$16.55)	
GOLD			
London close	\$381.00	(\$381.85)	
* denotes midday trading price			

Glaxo also puts Affymax in week's shopping basket

BY PATRICIA TEHAN AND SARAH BAGNALL

GLAXO continued along the acquisition trail yesterday, unveiling its second bid in less than a week with the agreed \$485 million purchase of Affymax, a drugs discovery company.

The Affymax offer of \$30 a share will be financed out of Glaxo's own resources. As with the Wellcome deal, Affymax employees who hold share options will also benefit. Glaxo expects to pay an additional sum to option holders, at a total cost of up to \$550 million.

Affymax, which is incorporated in The Netherlands, but quoted on Nasdaq, is a leader in the emerging field of combinatorial chemistry, which makes chemicals on a huge scale and selects those with the greatest potential for medical use. Glaxo would turn any successes into medicines.

Its scientists, who are based at two research facilities in California, have created a broad portfolio of proprietary technologies that enable the simultaneous synthesis and screening of millions of compounds.

Sir Richard Sykes, Glaxo's chief executive, said that through the acquisition of Affymax, "Glaxo will significantly improve its ability to find innovative medicines, which is our goal."

For the 12 months to December 31 1993, Affymax reported consolidated revenues of \$15.2 million, a net loss of \$20.3 million and total shareholders' funds at the end of that year of \$97.0 million. In the nine months to September 30 its consolidated revenues were \$16.2 million and it made a net loss of \$14.2 million. Total shareholders' funds at September 30 were \$92.6 million.

to accept it. However, under its agreement with Glaxo, the Trust was given four days in which it can opt out of acceptance. It has until midnight tonight to decide whether to confirm its undertaking to accept the bid.

If it confirms, it will give an irrevocable undertaking to accept the offer by the first closing date, subject to High Court approval and unless there is a higher bid. It is likely to apply for court approval to sell its shares on Monday. Wellcome will be present in court, but is understood to be unable to oppose the move on legal grounds.

Glaxo is offering 722p in cash and 0.47 of a new Glaxo share for each Wellcome share, valuing Wellcome shares at 1,025p, and valuing the company at \$8.9 billion. Including unexercised share options, it values Wellcome at \$9.4 billion.

If the Trust does sign the letter, Wellcome fears that it may give the wrong signals to any potential counter-bidder.

Sir Richard Sykes, chief executive of Glaxo, said that he expected to receive confirmation today that the advice given to the Trust by Robert Fleming remains unchanged.

Sir Richard expressed disappointment at Wellcome's reaction. He said: "Glaxo remains convinced that the proposed merger is not only in the best interests of both Wellcome and Glaxo shareholders, but that it will also secure Britain's leading position in the pharmaceutical industry, which is undergoing fundamental change across the world. The commercial logic of our bid is clear."

Mr Robb said that after a "long and exhaustive exercise" Wellcome's board had decided that the offer did not give full value. He said that the board had information, which it could show potential white knights, demonstrating hidden value in Wellcome.

A takeover of Wellcome by Glaxo would create the world's largest drugs company. The bid is the biggest seen in the City, and the £6.5 billion bank loan raised by Glaxo to fund it is the largest seen in the UK.

Pennington, page 23

C&W joins Veba in telecoms battle

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

CABLE AND WIRELESS has formed a strategic telecoms alliance with Veba, the German electricity and oil group. They plan to attack the German telecoms monopoly and to pool management of their expanding interests in the rest of the European Community other than Britain.

If the alliance can secure the licences it needs at continental monopolies are opened to full competition after 1998, they will share investment of more than £2 billion in Germany over the next ten years and a like sum elsewhere, mainly in France, Italy and Spain. The alliance will concentrate on PCN-based mobile telecommunications until 1998.

Veba bought a 5 per cent stake in C&W for £430 million yesterday as part of an agreement for it to buy up to 10.5 per cent, which will be frozen for ten years unless others build higher stakes. Under C&W's articles, no holder may vote more than 15 per cent.

NatWest Securities bought the shares at 395p by 11.45am, well below the 435p maximum Veba set for six months. C&W shares were unchanged on the day at 378p.

Ulrich Hartmann, executive chairman of Veba, is to join C&W's board, but Lord Young of Grafton, C&W's chairman, said: "I have no desire to go on their board. First, they have not invited me."

In the German alliance, C&W is to buy a 45 per cent stake of Vebacom, although terms are not yet agreed. Vebacom already has an interest in a mobile network, and access to cable systems and other infrastructure. It aims to be the prime competitor to Deutsche Telekom and to gain a 10 per cent share of the market, Europe's biggest, by 2003.

Pennington, page 23
German market, page 27

Saatchi denies plague calls

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

SAATCHI & SAATCHI has denied all knowledge of the nuisance telephone calls that have plagued friends and relatives of four former top executives since they quit the advertising group a fortnight ago.

Inquiries by The Times suggest the calls, purporting to come from BT and attempting to elicit the identities and addresses of individuals linked to the four men, were continuing until Wednesday. Saatchi said a letter from lawyers acting for Nick

Hurrell, one of the four, had been received by his solicitor blaming it for the calls.

"That letter sought to suggest these calls were at our instigation. That's not the sort of behaviour we would want anybody to be involved in," Saatchi said.

The calls purport to be from BT, which has denied any involvement, checking a fictitious fault on the line and demanding names and addresses. The only common link in almost all cases is that the

BAe-ATR merger will cost 1,000 UK jobs

BY CARL MORTIMER

THE future of Europe's regional aircraft industry is being written in Toulouse after the creation of a joint venture between British Aerospace and ATR, the Franco-Italian aircraft manufacturer.

BAe said yesterday that the merger would involve shutting down production of its Jetstream 61 turbo-prop plane and the loss of up to 1,000 jobs in the UK. The closure will cost BAe £250 million, with a write-off of £215 million in the 1994 accounts.

The aerospace group, whose bid for the shipbuilder



ly, the partners will not transfer production to the joint venture, based in Toulouse, which is intended to break even with costs borne equally by the three companies. Pro-

duction of new aircraft will be shared between the partners. "We have started talking about final assembly in Toulouse," said Dick Evans, BAe's chief executive.

BAe's plant in Manchester could suffer 600 job losses when Jetstream 61 production ceases and BAe will have to bear up to 400 job losses as functions are transferred to Toulouse.

Mike Turner, chairman of BAe's commercial aircraft division, said that the regional aircraft market was overcrowded. BAe has made provisions of £125 billion over the past three years against

the business which lost £79 million in the second half. It forecasts that closure of the Jetstream 61, which has failed to secure orders, will save £50 million in a full year but the commercial aircraft division, which includes the profitable Airbus, could still be losing an annualised £100 million.

Mr Evans described the joint venture as "a piece of the architecture" and confirmed that talks continued with other European manufacturers, including DASA, the German group, while long-term an Asian partner would be needed to secure access to the Far East market.

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Still room for improvement, says Heseltine

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH industry needs to improve its underlying performance still further in spite of encouraging changes in the economy, Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, said yesterday as he announced that the Government is to publish a new White Paper on industrial competitiveness.

Business leaders welcomed the idea of a second White Paper on Britain's comparative economic performance, even though many privately recognise that Mr Heseltine's first White Paper on the issue published last year has not achieved a wholesale improvement in

the UK's economic performance. In advance of last year's document, the Department of Trade and Industry said that the Britain was about 25 per cent behind its major competitors in terms of economic performance, and Mr Heseltine acknowledged yesterday that the gap between Britain and its principal competitors still exists.

Speaking last night in London to the French Chamber of Commerce, Mr Heseltine stressed that a focus on competitiveness was not about solving a single problem. He added that there were three key areas that the Government itself could influence — the macroeconomy, education and regulation. But he said: "The idea that a tiddler on interest rates or even an adjustment of our currencies will address

structural weaknesses in our economy is nonsense." While Britain's recent economic performance had been outstanding, economic improvement should not dissuade industry from trying to improve its underlying performance still further. He cited as an example the 1 per cent fall in the UK's unit wage costs over the last year as against a 3 per cent fall in the USA and a 6 per cent fall in Germany.

The new White Paper, which is expected to be published in the summer, will build on last year's document. It will cover the range of factors important to competitiveness, update and extend details of the UK's strengths and weaknesses, show the ways in which government and industry are now working in

partnership and demonstrate how the Government intends to respond to the business challenges of coming years.

Some outside commentators are sceptical about the whole notion of inter-country competitiveness, and some of Mr Heseltine's political opponents inside the Conservative party claim there will again be little of moment in the new White Paper. But Howard Davies, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, said it was welcome news, in line with what the CBI had been seeking.

Labour said that last year's White Paper had been widely recognised as a missed opportunity to halt Britain's industrial decline, and the new document would have as little effect.

Banks 'still reluctant to lend to small firms'

By Patricia Tehan
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BANKS are still pre-occupied with profit rather than customer service, and are making it difficult for many small companies to borrow, according to a report published today.

The findings of the Bank Relationship Survey contradict the findings of the latest Bank of England report on finance for small firms, published on Tuesday.

The Bank found a marked improvement in the relationship between banks and small firms in the past two years. It found that the pricing of fees and charges for small firms had become more transparent, and margins on loans had been more stable during the past year.

However, today's survey by the Manchester Business School for the Bank Consultancy Group shows as many as one in eight companies have changed their bank in the last two years and one in five are thinking of doing so.

Although firms have found that the problems of credit availability had reduced, the survey found increased concern "that banks are widening their spreads rather than passing on cuts in interest rates".

Small firms with turnover below £2 million "still believe that banks are reluctant to lend to them".

The survey found that all banks were increasing security and guarantee arrangements dramatically, and that customers of Barclays, Midland and Royal Bank of Scotland were more likely to face lending restrictions.

The firm surveyed 1,500 companies. The biggest source of complaint was over fees, followed by service quality.

Barclays and Lloyds were seen as the most demanding for existing fees and the introduction of new ones, while Yorkshire, Clydesdale and Barclays had the weakest position for service quality.

The Bank Relationship Survey 1995. 0171-287 0422.



Current account: Tim Thwaites, chairman, right, and Gary Pette, managing director, toasting doubled interim profits yesterday of £718,000 before tax for Grosvenor Inns, the public house company whose brands include Hedgehog and Hogshead and Slug and Lettuce

Strong imports send Britain's non-EU trade deficit soaring

By Janet Bush
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S trade deficit with countries outside the European Union soared in December as imports surged but analysts were mystified about why such a sudden deterioration had occurred after a year of good news on trade.

The shortfall jumped to £1.05 billion compared with November's upward revised

deficit of £435 million. The City had been expecting a deficit in December of nearer to £400 million.

Imports rose by more than 5 per cent to a record £6.34 billion and exports fell by about the same amount to £5.29 billion, according to the Central Statistical Office. Even in underlying terms — excluding oil and erratics — exports fell by 5 per cent compared with the previous

month and imports jumped by more than 7 per cent.

Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, warned against reading too much into volatile monthly figures. He noted that the non-EU trade deficit of £6.5 billion for the year was the lowest since 1987 and demonstrated the success of Britain's export-led recovery.

Brian Wilson, Labour's trade spokesman, said the

figures were deeply worrying and "put in perspective the Government's inflated claims of an export-led recovery".

Yesterday's figures showing a drop in exports sits uneasily with Tuesday's Confederation of British Industry survey showing rising export optimism among manufacturers. Hoare Govelet noted that, despite December's fall, export trends remain strongly upwards, although other ana-

lysts said that the boost to exports from sterling's post-ERM depreciation may now be running out.

Imports are more worrying. These were, to many, suspiciously low throughout last year, prompting worries about the accuracy of the statistics. Nevertheless, the suddenness of December's jump does suggest a blip.

But some in the City interpreted the rise in imports as a sign that domestic demand is strong, and said that the trend of imports is now strongly upwards.

Greenspan reassures bond markets

REASSURING words from Alan Greenspan, president of the US Federal Reserve, helped to offset the negative impact in the Treasury bond market of stronger US durable goods orders figures yesterday (Janet Bush writes).

Orders rose by 1.4 per cent in December and 0.1 per cent excluding the strong transport sector, provoking a downturn in the bond market which is sensitive to

any signs that the economy remains robust in spite of the six increases in interest rates over the past year.

However, calm returned after Mr Greenspan said the "very torrid" pace of US growth in the latter half of 1994 is slowing. His comments came shortly before the Federal Open Market Committee meets on Tuesday and Wednesday to discuss interest rates amid speculation

that it will choose to push its Federal Funds rate up again.

World bond markets also received cheer as western German inflation fell to 2.3 per cent in January, its lowest since June 1990, from 2.7 per cent in December. Also, the Bundesbank hit its key M3 money supply target for 1994. Its target was for growth of between 4 and 6 per cent; it turned out at 5.7 per cent.

Andrew Cates of UBS Ltd, a firm that has been consistently pessimistic on the outlook for the trade balance, said that he expected a significant deterioration in the current account over the next two years. This contrasts with other forecasts who have been predicting a surplus on the current account as early as next year.

Prudential picks team to replace Newmarch

By Robert Miller

THE PRUDENTIAL yesterday appointed Sir Martin Jamb, the group's chairman-designate, to head a special committee of non-executive directors to find a successor to Mick Newmarch, who left his post as chief executive on Monday. Sir Martin takes over in June from Sir Brian Corby as chairman of the Prudential, Britain's largest insurer.

The Prudential said last night that the appointment of a special committee did not rule out a successor to Mr Newmarch coming from within the company's own ranks.

Contrary to some reports,

the board tried to talk Mr Newmarch out of resigning. It is understood, however, that the extra stress caused by the Stock Exchange investigation of his share dealings was the final straw for him.

The internal front runners to succeed Mr Newmarch include Hugh Jenkins, 61, who took over from him as investment director. Another is Keith Bedell Pearce, 47, the chief executive of the company's financial services arm, and a long shot is Jim Sutcliffe, 37, who heads the Prudential's home services division, which sells policies direct to investors.

One regulator urged for post and telecomms

BRITAIN'S entire communications industry, including posts, telecommunications and broadcasting, should come under a single regulator, the new trade union for communications said yesterday (Philip Bassett writes).

The proposal for a single regulator, directly accountable to Parliament and with a wider brief than promotion of competition, came from leaders of the new Communication Workers' Union, officially vested yesterday after a merger of the UCU postal workers' union and the NCU telecommunications union. The new union, with 290,000 members, will be Britain's sixth-largest.

Coca-Cola claims victory as quarter profits leap to \$567m

By Susan Gilchrist and Sean Mac Carthaigh

COCA-COLA claimed victory in the cola war yesterday as the American soft drinks giant reported a strong rise in sales in Britain despite increased competition.

The group said sales rose 21 per cent in the third quarter of 1994 and by 10 per cent in the final quarter. It said volumes increased across the board including sales to Sainsbury, the UK's biggest supermarket chain which launched its own brand last April.

Sainsbury's Classic Cola has proved a huge success. It now has a market share of 9 per cent in supermarkets,

almost half that of Pepsi. Its launch has been followed by similar moves by other grocery chains, including Sainsbury and Asda. Virgin, Richard Branson's business empire, also introduced its own range of colas at the end of last year.

Overall the group's profits rose to \$567 million, or 44 cents a share, in the fourth quarter from \$466 million, or 36 cents per share, in the same period of 1993. "We have been systematically building a global growth machine, and the machine is running on all cylinders," Roberto Goizueta, the firm's chairman and chief executive, explained.

For the year, Coca-Cola earned \$2.56 billion, or \$1.98 a share, compared to \$2.18 billion, or \$1.67 a share, in 1993. Revenues for the quarter were up to \$4.08 billion from \$3.37 billion; for the full year, revenues jumped to \$16.17 billion, from 1993's \$13.96 billion.

The company said expansion in Britain, Japan and Mexico had fueled international post-mix volume by 14 per cent over the year, international unit case volume advanced 11 per cent and gallon shipments grew 10 per cent.

Misys earns £11.2m at half-way stage

MISYS, the computer software and services group, is optimistic about prospects after pre-tax profits rose to £11.2 million in the six months to November 30, against £8.01 million last time. Turnover at the acquisitive company expanded by 52 per cent to £63.9 million. Kappit, the software company acquired last April, made a better-than-expected first full contribution.

Profits and sales at the financial services division rose 29 per cent, largely due to Misys Financial Systems, which was boosted by a further increase in electronic transaction volumes after growing demand for insurance products. A strong order book helped trading profits in the computer systems division to advance 41 per cent, on sales ahead by 62 per cent. Cash balances improved by £2 million to £35 million. Earnings increased 16 per cent to 16.2p (44p) a share, while a better-than-expected interim dividend of 3.45p (3p) helped the shares to firm 3p to 418p.

MCI soars to \$794m

MCI, BT's American partner, announced a 36 per cent jump in annual profits yesterday. Earnings for the world's third largest long-distance carrier in 1994 were \$794 million, up from \$581 million in 1993, the company said. Per share income rose to \$1.04 to \$1.32. Revenue for last year touched \$13.34 billion, against \$11.92 billion in 1993. For the last quarter, income per share rose to 22 cents from 18 cents, while revenue advanced to \$3.4 billion from \$3.1 billion. The company expressed delight with its alliance with BT, which saw BT take a 20 per cent stake in MCI for \$4.3 billion.

P&G sales soar

PROCTER & GAMBLE says that its sales volume is up 14 per cent in Europe, indicating some success in its feud with Unilever. "Our detergent market share has reached an all-time high in Britain of 53 per cent, and the new Ariel Future product is going well there," Terry Lobus, a spokesman, said. The company's washing products include Dax and Fairy Liquid; in the nappy market, its Pampers brand took it to a new high of 55 per cent of the European market. For its first half, to December 31, the company reported profits of \$1.54 billion, against \$1.32 billion in the same period in 1993.

Crest Packaging slips

CREST PACKAGING, the packaging and carton maker that floated in 1993, suffered a further decline. Pre-tax profits dipped to £1.84 million (£2.43 million) in the 26 weeks to October 29, on flat turnover of £21.6 million. Operating profits at the flexible packaging division slid 23 per cent, on turnover 3 per cent lower, while the carton division lifted profits 8 per cent, on turnover ahead 4 per cent. A reduced tax charge of 25 per cent (40 per cent) helped to restrict the dip in earnings to 3.5p (3.6p) a share. There is a first-time interim dividend of 1.375p, due to be paid on March 23.

Menvier Swain lights up

MENVIER SWAIN, the emergency lighting and alarms group which has been in on-off bid talks with the troubled Scantronic security components group, increased pre-tax profits by 26 per cent to £5.17 million in the half year to October 31, on turnover ahead 22 per cent to £41.1 million. Earnings climbed to 6.9p (5.6p) a share and the interim dividend, payable on April 6, is raised to 1.6p (1.3p). The shares added 9p to 273p. Bid talks between Menvier Swain and Scantronic were abandoned last month after the two companies failed to settle on a confidentiality agreement.

Iberia test for Kinnock

NEIL KINNOCK, the new European Transport Commissioner, faces an early test after the Spanish Government notified the European Commission of its plan to inject 150 billion pesetas (£700 million) of state aid into Iberia, the Spanish airline, in what promises to become a controversial case of airline subsidies. The European Commission recently watered down its state aid policies, abandoning the rule under which state-owned companies can get a one-time injection of state aid in return for a restructuring plan. Iberia received 120 billion pesetas in state aid in 1992.

CLM's first results

CLM, the Lloyd's of London investment trust, unveiled its first full year results since listing in November 1993. Net revenue before tax was £1.66 million for the period November 6 1993 to December 31, struck after fees and expenses of £2.2 million. Total income from investments — dividends and interest — was £3.9 million. The company is paying a final dividend of 0.98p on 28 February, lifting the total dividend on an annualised basis to 2.08p. The dividend is being paid out of earnings of 1.18p a share. The shares remained unchanged at 92p.

Swalec windfarm plan

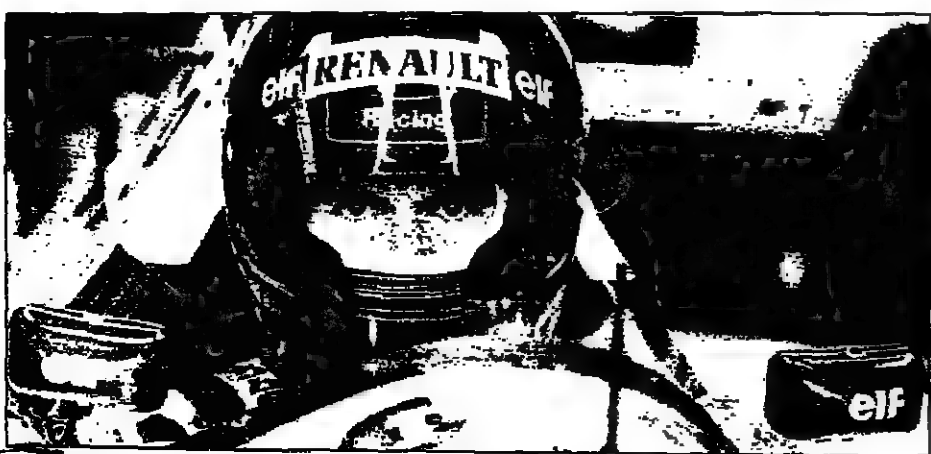
SOUTH Wales Electricity (Swalec) is planning to spend £70 million on four windfarm generators in Wales. The new windfarms, being developed in conjunction with National Wind Power, will be at Gelligall, near Merthyr Tydfil; Llandegley, near Ullandred; Wellsford, near Haverfordwest; and at Cliffteth, near Haverfordwest. The four will have a combined total of up to 140 turbines and produce enough electricity for about 80,000 homes. Swalec is already a significant shareholder in two similar plants at Bryn Tylid in mid Wales and at Kirby Moor in Cumbria.

Inflation rises in EU

INFLATION in the European Union rose slightly to 3.1 per cent in December, the first increase in four months. Greece has the highest rate of inflation, at 10.8 per cent last month, with France the lowest, at 1.6 per cent, according to the report from Eurostat, the EU's statistical arm. Britain's inflation rate of 2.9 per cent was the seventh lowest among the 12 existing members. For the new EU members, the report said the rate was 2.6 per cent in Austria, 1.6 per cent in Finland and 2.5 per cent in Sweden.

QVC unscrambles its wares in search for customers

By Alexandra Prian
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT



Quick sale: Damon Hill appeared on the channel to sell signed copies of his book

QUICK, easy and cheap it may be, but QVC, Britain's first non-stop home shopping television channel, has finally conceded that its range of products — from watering cans to watches — is proving of a turn-off for viewers.

In an attempt to boost its meagre ratings, QVC has decided to offer its station to all cable and satellite television viewers for free. At present its sign is scrambled and can only be watched by the 3.95 million subscribers to the multi-channel package of stations operated by BSkyB, the satellite television company.

Sources at QVC say that the proposed decision to unscramble its signal should be finalised with BSkyB within the next

two weeks. They estimate that the move will extend the station's reach to the vast majority of the 750,000 cable and satellite homes that are not BSkyB subscribers.

QVC has had a chequered history since it was launched in the UK in October 1993. Although there are no official viewing figures available, its audiences are lamentably low and are thought rarely to reach 250,000.

Even though its relatively low overheads allow it to offer brand-name goods at a considerable discount to high street stores, it has scarcely caused a ripple in the UK retail world.

The company admitted unofficially last year that it was at least £12 million behind its first year target. Barry Diller, former chairman of QVC's American parent, QVC Inc, did not help matters

when he admitted at the last Edinburgh television festival that the company was leaking money "like a sieve".

In an attempt to polish its image, the channel recently persuaded Sir David Attenborough, the broadcaster and naturalist, Damon Hill, the racing driver and Judith Miller, author of a number of best-selling antiques guides, to appear on its screens to sell signed copies of their latest books.

A QVC spokeswoman denied the company was in crisis. "We regard ourselves more as a retailer than a television channel... We are doing extremely well in the run up to Christmas, we sold 400,000 items," she said. QVC is 20 per cent owned by BSkyB, in which News International, owner of The Times, is a major shareholder.

RATES		Bank	Bank
		Rate	Rate
Australia \$	2.18	2.01	
Austria Sch	17.88	16.46	
Belgium Fr	66.74	48.44	
Canada \$	2.25	2.15	
Cyprus Cyp	0.784	0.728	
Denmark Kr	10.18	9.28	
Finland Mk	8.08	7.44	
France Fr	8.79	6.14	
Germany Dm	2.57	2.38	
Greece Dr	387.00	372.50	
Hong Kong \$	12.84	11.94	
Ireland Ir	1.09	0.98	
Italy Lit	2064.00	1980.00	
Japan Yen	172.50	158.50	
Netherlands Gld	0.620	0.580	
Norway Kr	11.16	10.26	
Portugal Esc	260.50	242.00	
Spain Ptas	166.64	153.66	
Sweden Kr	12.83	11.93	
Switzerland Fr	2.18	2.07	
Turkey Lira	1.88	1.78	
USA \$	1.68	1.58	

□ Lord Young's humility has paid off □ Wellcome declines to capitulate □ Hard sell for soft drinks

Clear line to Germany

□ THERE is no doubting who is the senior partner in the strategic alliance between Cable & Wireless and Veba. The domestic power and oil distributing utility logically has the senior interest in their German joint venture. But Veba also sees C&W, more vaguely, as its vehicle for telecoms beyond western Europe. It should have no trouble building a 10.5 per cent stake in C&W, judging from the rush of institutions to offer stock yesterday. And its chairman joins C&W's board whereas Lord Young was not invited to reciprocate.

You might think that this was simply because Veba is much bigger. But its £10.5 billion market value is only a quarter more than that of C&W, which is a more global company. Lord Young explains the mismatch as a cultural difference between continental and Anglo-Saxon ways. Buying a long-term stake in C&W is the Germans' funny way of honouring the alliance. But this hardly washes.

In C&W's business, strategic minority stakes are the norm, at least at subsidiary level. And Veba made it clear yesterday that it was not shelling out £870 million on C&W shares for fun. It hopes to be an influential insider, becoming a preferred partner elsewhere if not having any more control than its one

board seat and minority stake suggest. One such alliance might be in eastern Europe, oddly excluded from the agreement. C&W has its own bases in Latvia and St Petersburg and reckons that enough for the moment. But Veba is talking power stations in Poland and old Prussia and would love to talk telecoms too if it had the expertise.

Cultural differences will need to be sorted out. Veba is a bigger force in Germany than its market value suggests, ranking high in the German industrial pantheon and well aware of its status and bulging wallet. Among potential German partners for telecoms groups in Europe's biggest market, Veba has the most clout and the best chance of winning licences. That gave it the whip hand. It rejected British Telecom, for instance, because BT was mainly interested in Germany and did not seem to offer an entrée for Veba to spread its new telecom ambitions to other parts.

In return for humility, however, C&W has won itself a fine-looking business deal. It has leapt into pole position in

Germany, forged a powerful alliance for the rest of the EC and secured better access to funds. After the Pacific, UK and the Americas, the fourth main leg of its world strategy is well-forged.

With mobile network assets already on the ground, the continent could deliver useful profits in years rather than decades and to give shareholders a taste. C&W has improved the market for its own shares now, rather than issuing new paper. Not that you would guess this from City reaction. After such momentous news and a big share-buying operation, C&W shares ended the day unchanged.

Mr Robb deserves a hearing

□ WELLCOME'S board was not given much choice over its future. It had no chance to negotiate with Glaxo. Yet Glaxo conducted intensive negotiations with the Wellcome Trust, which holds virtually 40 per cent. Given that other shareholders have had a bumpy, if exhilarating, ride in Wellcome shares, John Robb and



his colleagues had little hope of defeating a Glaxo bid with two fifths in the bag.

In such circumstances, outsiders are likely to think that the spurned Wellcome board's rejection is both inevitable and ritualistic. They have nothing to lose and might gain a higher bid if a third party can be conjured up. There are few potential rivals, but they are mighty and would not necessarily quail at the combined might of Glaxo and its Trust allies.

This is an unhappy situation. Any company deserves its day in court before its fate is decided, to defend itself, explain its deeper virtues, hidden assets and immediate prospects. Wellcome is, in its own right, one of Britain's

leading growth companies. Yet it has not been able to present its case for a higher price either to Glaxo or, since the deal was done, to the Wellcome Trust. Presenting it other shareholders is also rather a forlorn exercise. The only useful audience is another rival drugs company.

This is Anglo-Saxon capitalism at its most brutal. But it is essentially the product of the close relationship between the company and the charity its founder set up to own it, shepherd it and distribute its fruits.

Even after previous share sales, Wellcome may have had a false sense of security. Yet relationships can sour and the parent become the child's worst enemy. Trustees must fulfil their statutory duties, but it is clear that they have fallen out with Mr Robb. They may not have been impressed with some boardroom comings and goings, notably the recent departure of Trevor Jones, UK research director. Failure to gain the confidently expected approval for over-the-counter sales of Zovirax in America will not have helped.

If trustees have duties, how-

ever, management that has not failed deserves some rights. Mr Robb should have a meaningful way of stating his case.

Cadbury tastes red Pepper

□ THE abrupt recovery in shares of Cadbury Schweppes suggests that the financing plan put in place to pay for Dr Pepper, whatever the long-term prospects for that business, will cause rather less damage to the balance sheet than had been feared.

That said, gearing will rise to 150 per cent, even after £1.1 billion-worth of Dr Pepper brands are taken onto the Cadbury balance sheet, and interest cover for this year will drop from well above ten in 1994 to below the company's internal target of five for the current year.

The scrip dividend alternative, underwritten and linked to the rights issue, could save the company from finding £111 million of the purchase price. There will be no dilution in 1995, while 1996 will see some enhancement in earnings from the deal. The

terms, therefore, fulfill to the letter the conditions promised by Cadbury at the start of the week, after news of the proposed purchase first leaked.

But Cadbury is merely buying a large chunk of the American soft drinks market, raising its market share from 5 per cent to 16 per cent or more. Prospects for further growth are less clear. PepsiCo owns 74 Up outside the US. Dr Pepper itself may not prove to be easily exportable, and the future of soft drinks generally lies in New Age brands, such as Snapple and the so-called isotonic drinks. Neither Cadbury nor Dr Pepper have much of a track record in new product launches recently. Damningly, the most successful debut in a decade was probably Sprite, which came out of the Coca-Cola stable.

XXX

□ GRAEME ODGERS, chairman of the MMC, reveals in the annual report that the use of outside consultants is to be extended. Selected areas of inquiry work are to be contracted out and arrangements have been reached with 28 firms. Odgers promises that "great care" will be taken to avoid conflicts of interest and ensure confidentiality. Prospective witnesses may not be entirely convinced.

Inchcape shares plummet after profits warning

By GEORGE SIVELL, ASSISTANT BUSINESS EDITOR

SHARES in Inchcape plunged by 82p to 311p yesterday after a profits warning by the worldwide motor, marketing and services group stunned the City.

Inchcape, the world's largest independent car distributor, warned the stock market that 1994 profits would be about 10 per cent down on 1993's £252.4 million. Previously, analysts who follow Inchcape, whose managing director is Charles Mackay, expected the group to report anywhere between £240 million and £275 million.

Shares in other vehicle distributors fell yesterday. Lex

Service fell 10p to 296p and Cowie fell 2p to 226p. Analysts emerged from an Inchcape briefing saying the group was very downbeat on prospects.

The warning shows a sharp reverse in fortunes seen by the company's board since the middle of 1994. At the annual meeting in May, Inchcape told its shareholders: "First-half profits will be down in comparison with the first half of last year. Nonetheless we are cautiously optimistic that we can achieve significant progress in the second half to be able to maintain our track record of year on year profit growth."

Inchcape, which imports Toyota cars into Britain, said that the private car market remained depressed. Inchcape said that in Europe generally the Japanese distribution businesses "continued to suffer from the strength of the yen in difficult markets, which necessitated substantially increased expenditure on advertising, promotion and incentives. This was particularly the case in the United Kingdom where the private car market remained depressed."

In addition, Inchcape suffered from exchange rate movements generally. Of the

expected 10 per cent fall, two percentage points were attributed to the adverse impact of exchange rate movements on the sterling equivalent of profits earned in overseas currencies.

Inchcape also suffered in Hong Kong, where taxes introduced in August made consumers less confident. A change in the car tax moved the charge from the landing point to the point of sale and meant potential Hong Kong buyers perceived the price of automobiles as having moved upwards. Hong Kong consumers also became more thrifty after falls in property values and in share prices.

The company emphasises, however, that the damage to the motor divisions, has been offset, to some extent, by a strong recovery in its marketing business. Services are said to have maintained their full year-on-year growth pattern.

However, motor operations account for between 65 and 70 per cent of the company's earnings, but Inchcape said that it would not be pursuing a "fundamental change in corporate strategy."

Tempus, page 24



Mackay: had been hopeful

IBM's British subsidiary returns to black with £96m

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

THE British arm of International Business Machines (IBM), the American computer group, rebounded to a pre-tax profit of £96 million last year from a loss of £174 million in 1993, its first year in the black since 1990.

The 1994 results, issued yesterday, took account of the sale in December of IBM's manufacturing plant at Havant, Hampshire, to the management team for a price thought to be about £50 million. The plant, which employed 2,000 workers, makes PC disc drives.

Earlier this week, the American parent company reported

substantially higher group profits for the final quarter of last year, but only modest sales growth of 2 per cent and poor performance by its personal computers division left Wall Street disappointed.

Full-year results from IBM UK showed group turnover, helped by rising European demand, up 8.5 per cent at £4.40 billion, with exports from Britain rising 8.6 per cent to £2.53 billion. Domestic revenue was up 8.3 per cent to £1.87 billion.

The net profit was £100 million, after a £14.1 million loss in 1993. Profit before taxation and restructuring

costs was £176 million, against a £119 million loss last year. Restructuring charges amounted to £80 million, reflecting the reduction of the workforce by more than 2,000 to 9,183 during the year.

Javadi Aziz, IBM UK's chief executive, said the 1994 results showed a "dramatic improvement". He said the level of profit was encouraging and the company was back on track with business gathering momentum. As the British economy recovered, he said the domestic market had produced good growth across the company's product lines, with excellent growth in services.



George Pope and Ian Homersham saw turnover rise as the housing market recovered in central London

US sweetens Tate & Lyle first quarter

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

CONTINUED growth in the North American sweetener and starch markets helped Tate & Lyle to increase sales by almost 10 per cent in the first quarter.

The company said profits also showed good progress compared with the corresponding period last year.

Staley, the US starch and cereal sweetener business, continued to thrive. The European sweetener and starch operations also performed well. The one blackspot was the US sugar market where prices remain depressed.

Analysts are forecasting pre-tax profits of £265-£305 million for the full year.

Tate & Lyle's annual meeting yesterday was disrupted by union officials from America demanding an end to a lockout of 762 workers by Staley in Illinois. Father Martin Mangan, a Roman Catholic priest, also presented a petition, signed by 400 religious leaders, calling on Tate & Lyle to "live up to its responsibilities to the wider community". Sir Neil Shaw, Tate & Lyle chairman, said the company "was prepared to work day and night to come up with a solution".

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BANC

M&S and Burton sustain cheer

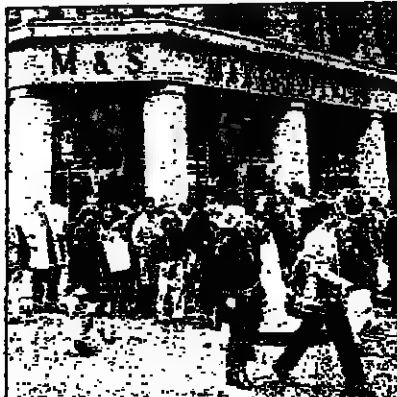
By SUSAN GILCHRIST

THE upbeat news on Christmas trading in the high street continued yesterday as Marks and Spencer, Britain's most profitable retailer, reported a rise in sales of nearly 11 per cent over Christmas and the Burton Group unveiled a marked improvement in margins.

Marks and Spencer said that sales in the UK rose by 6.7 per cent in the third quarter, to December 31, and by 10.8 per cent in the final five weeks of the period. Clothing and food showed similar gains.

This is an acceleration on the performance in the first half, when overall sales were up by 6.3 per cent. However, the growth in clothing sales slowed in the third quarter because of the mild weather in October and November.

Analysts were unimpressed by the news and some trimmed their full-year profit forecasts by about £20 million, to between £920 million and £950 million. The group said that it had managed to



M&S: Christmas sales 10.8 per cent up

control clothing stocks in spite of weak demand. As a result, markdowns on excess stock after Christmas were similar to last year's and margins were maintained.

Overseas progress continued in

Hong Kong and at Kings Super Markets, the group's New England grocery chain. Profits have been hit in Europe by the launch in September of the better values campaign, which cut prices by up to 20 per cent, and by the costs of expansion.

Burton Group's attempts to move away from discounting and promotions appears to be paying off. The high street fashion retailer reported a 3.7 percentage point improvement in gross margins in the 20 weeks to January 21.

However, the strategy took its toll on sales, which rose by just 0.1 per cent over the period. Debenhams continued to go from strength to strength, with sales rising by 4.3 per cent. However, turnover from the multiple chains, which include Dorothy Perkins and Top Shop/Top Man, fell by 4.2 per cent.

Marks and Spencer shares fell by 3½p, to 374½p. Burton rose by 1½p, to 71p.

Tempus, page 24

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Gerry's going, no joke

NEVER let it be said that economists are as dry as old bones. Colleagues at Smiths Industries, the aerospace components and medical equipment group, are sad at the thought that on Tuesday Gerry Mortimer, Smiths' economic adviser and an associate director, retires. Gerry, who two years ago was ordained as a Church of England lay preacher, joined Smiths in 1963, and for the past 15 years has been right-hand man to Roger Hurn, Smiths' no-nonsense chairman. Hurn tells me: "Gerry has a seemingly endless supply of jokes, and around the office is likely to burst into song at any time." But then Gerry is a non-executive of Boosey & Hawkes, the musical group, so his talents will not go wasted in retirement. However, there is one person who might not miss him. In recent years, Gerry has played a significant hand in Smiths' expansion programme in America — a role that required him to travel regularly on Concorde. On one flight, a not-too-well Gerry recognised Peter Jay, then ambassador to Washington, leaned over to introduce himself — and was then promptly sick in Our Man's lap.

Funny half-hour

NO sooner had Inachepe's chief executive Charles Mackay invited analysts' questions after his deadpan explanation of motor problems in Japan when the voice of Tony Hancock boomed over the conference speakers: "Tokyo calling. Tokyo calling. Crossed video wires from a room next door, where Hancock's Half Hour was being played, were apparently to blame."



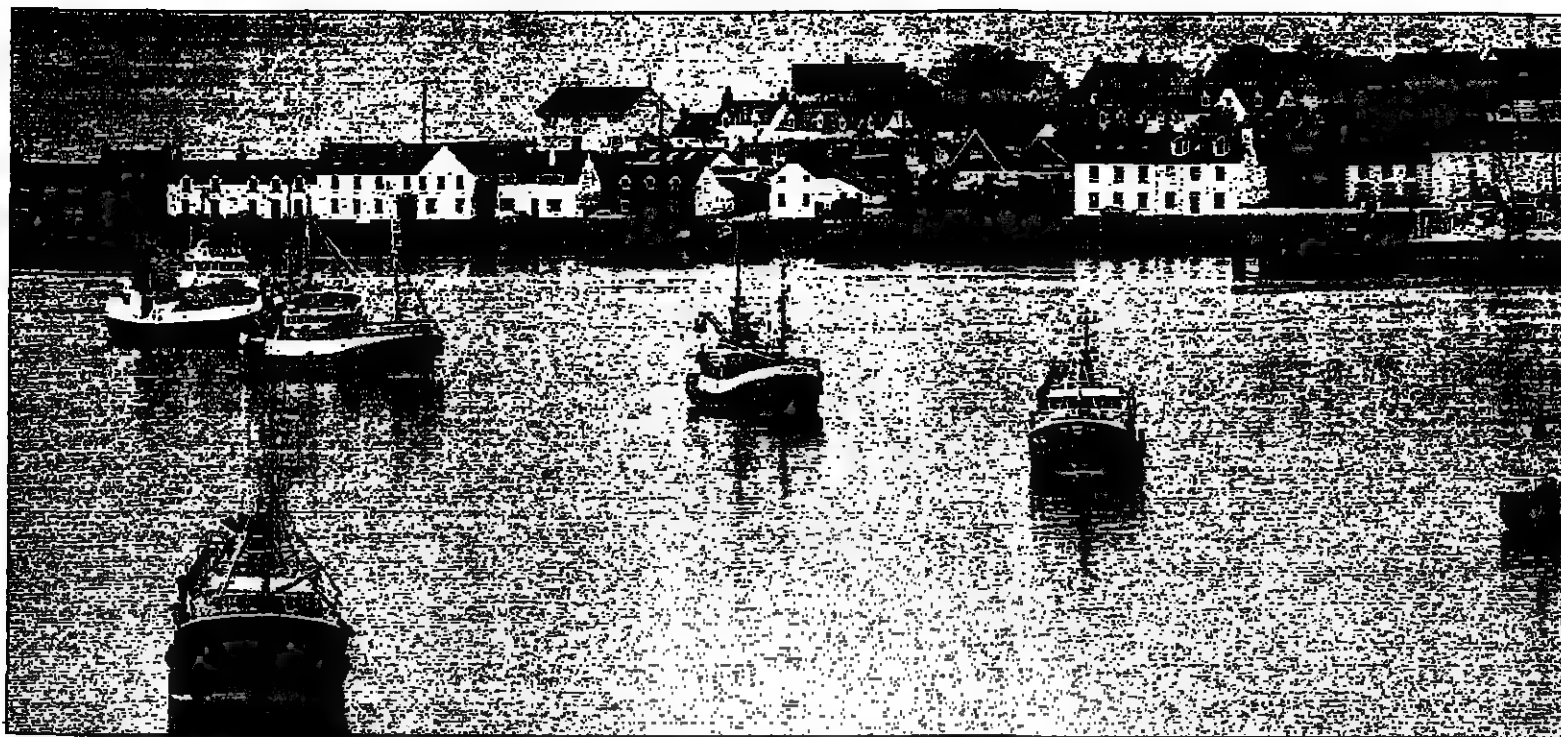
Sweet Swiss

THE Swiss chocolate giant Lindt is celebrating its 150th birthday with a gesture that is sure to sweeten up the whole country. Swiss postmen are about to set out to every household in the country with a box of chocolates which contain 60 grammes of Lindt's five best selling products. By the weekend, the choc should have gone through the letterboxes of the country's entire population — 2,349,522.

No game

SOUTH Africa's exclusive Mala Mala game reserve on the borders of the Kruger National Park may not be seeing quite so many rich American tourists following an unseemly incident recently. A group of US pension fund managers, with billions of dollars under management, spent a day in the bush at the Londolozi game reserve, one of four run by the fast-growing Conservation Corporation. That night, they decided to cross to neighbouring 4400-acre Mala Mala for dinner. As they sat down to dine, the owner, Mike Rattray, noticed that two local Londolozi rangers had joined their guests at the table, and he ordered them to leave. The outraged Americans stormed off, taking their money with them. Ethical funds are not to be trifled with these days.

COLIN CAMPBELL



Ullapool harbour; broadening the economic base of this Scottish town beyond fishing-related work has proved a tough challenge

Hard-pressed fishermen must take their battle to Brussels

Britain's depressed fishing towns need to link up and learn how to win jobs and influence politicians, says Royce Turner

THE decision by fishermen's leaders to campaign to save the industry is long overdue. Fishing has been in rapid decline for two decades. Yet it has not had such a high profile since the Royal Navy went to defend the fleet in Icelandic waters in 1975.

The consequences of decline have been dramatic: if almost unnoticed outside fishing areas. Long-term and high unemployment has been one problem. A survey in 1992 of Hull, Britain's major fishing port, noted that unemployment was highest in parts of the city that had traditionally provided labour for the fishing industry. "The highest rate of unemployment is recorded for Maitland ward, just adjacent to the fish dock," it said. "Here, the rate of unemployment for adult males... is 52.8 per cent of the adult population."

This is a replicated in Grimsby, Hull's great fishing rival on the east coast. Here, the same report showed unemployment rates in one of the wards associated with fishing as being 39.5 per cent, translating into 51.2 per cent on an earlier measure of unemployment. Wyre Borough Council reported that unemployment in Fleetwood, historically the major fishing port in the North West, was twice the level in the rest of the borough.

Decline affecting other industries has been highly visible. Closing coal mines brought a year-long strike in 1984-85. Closing steel works brought physical devastation to major urban centres such as Sheffield and Corby. Closing shipyards brought enterprise zones to Sunderland in 1988 and Inverclyde in 1989.

Yet, in fishing areas, there has been very little alternative economic development. Grampian Regional Council, for example, has no economic development activities directed at its fishing towns. The private sector-led Westcountry Development Corporation has no projects targeted at fishing towns in the South West. Fleetwood lacks any assistance under regional policy, yet its economic plight is obvious to the casual visitor.

Economic development faces three major problems. Firstly, remoteness and poor infrastructure. The fishing communities in Scotland, for example, are some of the remotest population centres in the land. One of the major fishing ports on the eastern coast of Scotland, Macduff, nestles awkwardly on the top of the Grampian peninsula. On the west side, Ullapool, where up to 30 per cent of the working population rely on fishing, is in the most northern and remote part of Britain.

Secondly, one-industry dominance has led to imbalance in economic structures. Generations of fishermen and their families have known nothing

else. Some places had no other reason to exist. In Macduff, for example, 60 to 70 per cent of the working population are involved in fishing.

Thirdly, the above two factors have led to a lack of easily transferable skills in fishing communities. There is no reason to blame them for this. These communities, like other communities associated with particular industries for generations, developed their own cultures. In fishing areas, this was a culture that assumed the continuation of fishing as the economic mainstay.

Economic development activities in Britain have focused on three elements: small business promotion, inward investment and training.

There have been some efforts in fishing areas to stimulate small business. As elsewhere in the country, much of the effort comes from a private sector-led enterprise agencies. The Grimsby Local Enterprise Agency —

workspaces for small businesses. The take-up in recent years, has been limited. In 1994, it was about a third full. Such efforts have little more than a marginal impact.

On inward investment, the news is even more gloomy. By and large, fishing areas are not favoured by substantial inward investors. They are often too remote, are not linked adequately to the national infrastructure, or are seen as not having the right kind of workforce.

Inward investment tends to go to major business centres. In the South West, for instance, most of it goes to Plymouth. The Department of Trade and Industry's Devon and Cornwall Development Bureau reports "very little prospect" of inward investment coming to fishing areas.

Fleetwood has seen virtually no inward investment in recent years. Grimsby has seen Findus and KP pull

assistance to become a photographer. As strategies for individuals, these are fine. They do little, however, to broaden the local economic base.

One of the important findings of the Macduff project was the clear preference of displaced fishermen for early retirement rather than retraining. Grampian Regional Council noted: "A top priority for fishermen is undoubtedly an early retirement scheme as fishermen, given the choice, would rather fish." Once a fisherman, always a fisherman. There are worrying parallels here with workers redundant from other traditional industries. Evidence from coal mining areas demonstrates a high level of workers leaving the labour market altogether, either through early retirement or long-term sickness. That is hardly the basis on which to build a thriving economy.

What emerges is a situation of fragmented political representation. The producers' interests are represented, though often in a localised way. While the National Federation of Fishermen exists to represent fishermen as a whole, each area has its own local association. There is a long history of competition between different areas and fleets. Moreover, there is no one political group representing the fishing areas. In Scotland, both the Liberal Democrats and the Scottish Nationalists have fishing constituencies. In the South West, the Conservatives have traditionally been strong. Fleetwood is a Labour town in a Conservative-controlled council area and parliamentary constituency. Grimsby and Hull have remained part of Labour's northern heartland.

This political fragmentation has weakened fishing areas' quest for economic regeneration. It contrasts with other areas facing decline. The Coalfield Communities Campaign boasts a membership of about 90 local authorities pressing the Government and the European Community for more help. It claims a large part in bringing extra funds from the EU to the coalfields. It has been followed by similar organisations in textile, aerospace and vehicle manufacturing areas.

Fishing areas face a further threat to their livelihood. Efforts to diversify their economies have had little impact. Many of these places have not recovered from a decline that was set in place more than 20 years ago. The need now is for lobbying pressure that unites Britain's fishing ports and which addresses the seat of government, where the real power lies over both fishing policy and regional assistance policy: Brussels.

Royce Turner is a research fellow at Sheffield Business School



Fish fresh in at Grimsby docks, but fishing towns lack political clout

partly funded by Findus, the frozen food business, which pulled out of the town a few years ago — has helped with the establishment of about 600 small businesses since its formation two years ago. Sixty per cent of these, the agency believes, are still trading. On average, the agency thinks that they have created three jobs each. All good work, but all wiped out by KP's recent announcement of the closure of its factory there, losing 100 jobs.

In Ullapool, Highland Regional Council has developed an industrial estate. The vast majority of companies that have moved on to it, however, are fishing-related businesses, involved in shellfish preparation or mussel processing. The extent to which the local economy has been diversified is minimal.

Similar problems apply in Fleetwood. There, the local authority has converted a brewery into 25

out, and "a significant falling-off of investment projects" in the past three years. Prospects of attracting inward investment to the fishing areas in the Scottish highlands are almost nil.

Nor has re-training had a high profile in fishing areas, though Macduff saw an experimental European Union-initiated scheme begin in 1991. Macduff was chosen by the British Government as a classic fishing town. The scheme was financed to the tune of £70,000. Fifty per cent of funding came from the EU. Only 11 people benefited directly, however. There was no follow-up. Most of the retraining did not have much impact in diversifying the local economy. Of those involved, five former fishermen were retrained as mates for offshore vessels or as deckhands; one was trained in operating a "sea-going pleasure vessel"; one shellfish exporter received financial assistance to continue his business; and one received

It's good to talk about a slice of the German phone market

UK sets the pace in the Telekom race, says Colin Narbrough

Rich pickings promised by the German telecommunications market have spawned a quick succession of cross-border alliances in which British players are prominent.

The seemingly irresistible attraction of the huge German market, Europe's biggest, is the combination of Bonn's enthusiasm for deregulating telecommunications and cash-rich corporate Germany's dash to enter the industry.

A strategic alliance between Cable and Wireless (C&W) and Veba, the diversified German energy group, was announced yesterday. At the same time, Wolfgang Bösch, the German Post Minister, is seeking to give private telephone companies licences to compete with Deutsche Telekom, the state monopoly, in 1997, a year earlier than previously planned.

A two-thirds majority will be required in the German parliament in order to change the law that underpins Telekom's lucrative monopoly in providing basic telephone services.

German industry, which is determined not to be left behind in telecommunications although it was a late starter, has come to regard the original deregulation target of 1998 as too leisurely.

The mobile phone operators who have been allowed to compete with the mighty Telekom have been particularly vociferous in their criticism of the high line charges the state monopoly demands from them.

Telekom, whose privatisation, Europe's biggest, is set to begin next year, sits astride a domestic market worth an estimated DM70 billion a year. Political wrangling has led to a string of surprise resignations linked to the sale, but there appears to be nothing to stop the privatisation.

Having seen what the privatisation of BT a decade ago has done for the British telecommunications market, German and non-German companies want to get themselves a slice of the generous German cake, which is the centrepiece of wider European deregulation.

Yesterday's deal between C&W and Veba had been on the cards for some time. Veba, based in Düsseldorf, has made no secret of its desire to find an international partner and invest large sums of money.

C&W, whose traditional strength was in Hong Kong and the Empire, said it is prepared to invest up to £2 billion in mainland Europe.

including Germany, over the next 10 years.

Veba is to become C&W's biggest shareholder, with a stake of up to 10.5 per cent. C&W will, in turn, buy 45 per cent of Vebacom, Veba's telecommunications arm. The tie-off offers important openings in mobile phone, network systems and cable.

A joint venture, C&W Europe, will operate across the European Union, but not in Britain and Germany. The German partner, with a turnover of more than DM70 billion, against C&W's £4.7 billion, is a handsome catch for Lord Young of Graffham, the C&W chairman, and compares favourably with the partner BT hooked up to earlier this month as the battle lines were drawn for German telephone licences.

Veba plans to invest DM6 billion in its alliance with C&W over the next 10 years. BT and Viag, the Bavarian utility, have formed a joint venture called Viag Interkom, in which the two partners will each have a 37.5 per cent stake. BMW, the Munich carmaker which last year took over

Rover, is negotiating to become the third partner in Viag Interkom.

Thyssen, the German steel and engineering group, this week joined the race with the announcement that it is forming a telecommunications consortium with BellSouth International, America's biggest regional telephone operator.

Another contender, comprising RWE, Germany's biggest utility group, Mannesmann, the German steel and engineering group and Deutsche Bank, the country's leading commercial bank, has yet to name an international partner. Unisource, the London-based joint venture between the Swiss, the Swedes, Dutch and Spaniards, is considered to be a hot favourite, and talks are understood to have taken place with AT&T, the American telecom group.

Daimler-Benz, Germany's industrial flagship, also has an agreement with Northern Telecom of Canada to offer network services. Daimler, which is based in Stuttgart, is also in the Globalstar satellite phone consortium.

But Deutsche Telekom must not be forgotten. It has already got into bed with France Telecom, its French counterpart, to buy into Sprint, the US long-distance carrier. As BT has demonstrated, starting out as the big boy on the block need not be a disadvantage.

Carl Mortished on the problem of removing a 200,000 tonne oil rig

As the wells run dry, the cost of leaving is huge

Britain's oil companies have spent vast sums ensuring that the oil production platforms besiding the North Sea can withstand decades of battering from weather and corrosion. Now the industry is battling with a different problem: the cost of removing millions of tonnes of steel and concrete when the wells run dry.

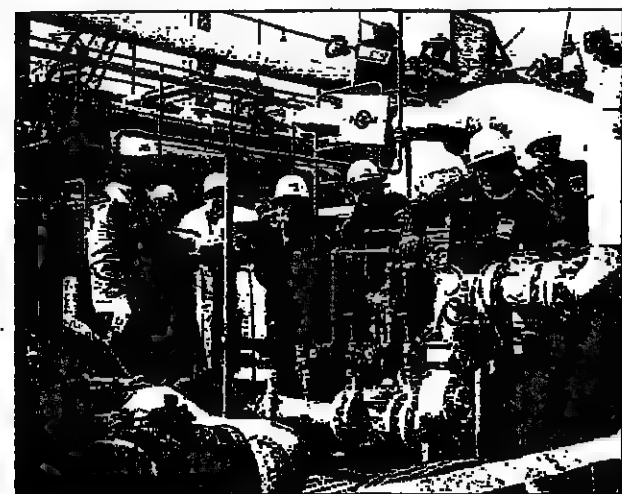
Since the first platform was towed out into the North Sea in 1967, more than 200 have followed and thousands of miles of pipelines have been laid along the seabed to pump oil to the shore. The investment continues, despite low prices and thin margins, and the search has widened to new provinces in the Irish Sea and west of Shetland. But wells drilled in the pioneering years of the North Sea are almost spent and while the oil companies focus on new and cheaper production techniques to maximise profits, they also face the cost of removing the old platforms.

The total cost is unknown, although estimates vary between £2.4 billion and £7 billion. Department of Trade and Industry rules for abandonment of large deepwater

platforms are due next month, but the industry has been waiting for at least a year.

Oil companies must build into their budgets the cost of decommissioning: for every barrel sold they write off an amount to build up an abandonment provision in their accounts. However, no oil company yet publishes a total estimate of its liability. That is likely to change after recommendations from the Oil Industry Accounting Committee, which wants the full amount set out in an oil company's balance sheet. Michael Lynch Bell, of Ernst & Young, the accountancy group, explained that part of the problem is the continuing uncertainty about the cost and timing of the expenditure.

The International Maritime Organisation sets the legal framework for abandonment. Structures must be removed to provide a water clearance of 55 metres to ensure there is no risk to navigation. Any platform in water depth of less than 75 metres must be removed entirely.



The start of it all: Britain's first commercial North Sea oil starts to flow from the Trans World 58 rig on June 11, 1975

In the Southern Basin will have to go, but in the deep water of the Central North Sea the Government has discretion to allow cheaper solutions. These might include removing the topside accommodation and processing units and cutting the steel support structure, the "jacket", to the required depth or toppling it to lie on the seabed.

These options are opposed by environmental groups anxious to prevent the North Sea from becoming an underwater scrapyard, while fishermen are concerned about damage to their nets. However, recent research at Aberdeen University suggests that the steel frames of oil platforms could be turned into artificial reefs attracting marine life.

The biggest headache is a few deepwater concrete platforms weighing more than

200,000 tonnes. "They should last for a long time and people have thought of alternative uses as weather stations, but the problem is the cost of maintenance," says Mark Hope, general manager at Enterprise Oil, which has budgeted about £100 million for abandonment.

Exotic solutions such as artificial reefs or offshore prisons are probably a distraction to the oil companies; UKOOA is lobbying for cost-effective as well as environment-friendly solutions. A recent survey of operators by Arthur Andersen, the accountant, came up with total abandonment costs of £7 billion in today's money, suggesting a 1988 study by UKOOA — costs estimated from £2.4 billion to £4.4 billion — may be too conservative.

Tax is also a live issue: according to Mr Lynch Bell, oil companies paying petroleum revenue tax and corporation tax can expect to offset about two thirds of the cost of abandonment against their tax liabilities. However, some cynics at major oil companies predict that as massive claims for allowances come pouring in the Treasury

will tighten the rules to preserve reserves.

Meanwhile, the industry is doing its sums and using new methods to extend the life of old platforms to save money. Mr Lynch Bell doubts that abandonments will cause a cash crisis. "When banks lend, they look at future cash flows and these will include cash needed for abandonment. Some covenants require a fund to be built up. What will

be devastating is if oil prices fall sharply one or two years before abandonment."

The ageing of the North Sea has created a brisk trade in oilfields as large companies sell their interest in higher cost tail-end fields while smaller entrepreneurial firms buy the assets cheaply and work them hard, pushing back the date of abandonment. The strategy may be higher risk, but the industry is never short of optimists.

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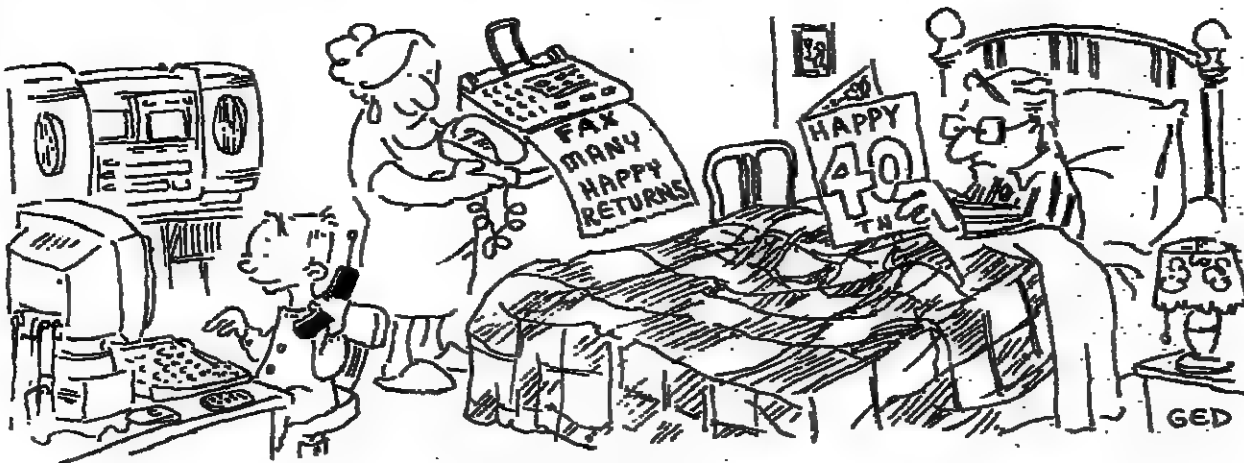
Why the voice of experience is under-valued

Staff recruitment for information technology shows every sign of picking up, but if you are over 40 years old the prospects for continuing employment are not rosy. A survey of members of the Computing Services and Software Association last year showed that recruitment had risen by 14 per cent in the third quarter of 1994. The figures were seen as suggesting that the fortunes of the information technology industry and its staff could return to a level not seen since the boom days of 1993.

But Rob Wirszycki, the association's marketing director, warns veterans in IT that they can no longer rely on experience alone to carry them through. "I have been asked about the issue and have conducted a random poll of some of our members," he says. "What emerges is that the day of the generalist is over. Employees need to be able to understand the new technologies of client-server computing, business-process re-engineering and object orientation. Unfortunately, the belief is that most people over 40 are not able to cope with these issues."

Even more gloomily for many, Mr Wirszycki says that pay rates within the industry are down and that "expectations of people over 40 of a continually expanding salary need to be adjusted."

Microsoft is the classical young IT company — epitomised by its chairman and founder, Bill Gates, who is invariably described as "youthful" despite being near 40. In Britain, Microsoft employs almost 400 people with an average age of 29. Five



Are some people too old to learn? Many employers in the industry seem to think so, says Sean Hallahan, although not in all parts of the country

years ago, the Microsoft employees were between 25 and 26. Like most IT companies, Microsoft has no formal age qualifications for employment, but the tendency of all the big personal computer companies in the past has been to employ younger staff rather than older people.

Yet as the company's business changes because of the use of open systems and a growing reliance of businesses on operating systems such as Windows and Windows NT, Microsoft is finding it needs skills in areas such as project manage-

ment and systems integration that are beyond a graduate recruit's knowledge.

Laurie Boyall, the managing director of McGregor Boyall, a recruitment consultancy, has identified a growing demand for skills that can be supplied only by experienced IT staff, which almost inevitably means older people. "A lot of systems have been put in recently especially in the City, where we operate," he says. "They are very powerful, and useful, if one knows how to use them. The people who are in short supply now are not the young

programmers, although there is still a huge demand for them, but project managers and systems integrators who can make the systems work."

"Open systems have complicated matters. In the old days, when you bought a software package, it either did what you wanted or did not. With open systems, what you have is infinity floating around, which is where you need experienced project managers and integrators."

"When a company wants a degree of maturity, a hint of grey and rugged

features helps to reinforce the impression." But Mr Boyall points out that age alone is no indication of experience. "I would not want to push the age limit beyond 50. Certainly, anybody going for retraining as a programmer at the age of 42 is unlikely to get a job."

Eddie Biel is a 43-year-old senior sales and support manager for Direct Systems, a small software house in the North. After 12 years in the army in 1981, he went on a sales and market course and found employment in the IT industry, selling consumer products. In 1987, he moved to Dacoli, a company that manufactures terminals. But like many companies, Dacoli failed to anticipate the impact of the PC on the terminal market and by 1994, in a senior sales role with the company, he found himself redundant.

Mr Biel was out of work for ten weeks, until he found his present position. He says: "Many of the people I deal with prefer to deal with an older person. There is a lot of difference between the North and the South of England. Most of the IT employees in the South are still very young and good at selling."

According to Mr Boyall, the experienced project managers and systems integrators can still command large salaries, especially in the City of London. But Mr Wirszycki points out that there is a price. "Companies are now paying on performance a great deal more than they were in the past," he explains. "Unless you can offer the performance the employer needs, there is little point in applying."



Eddie Biel: at 43, a support manager for a northern company

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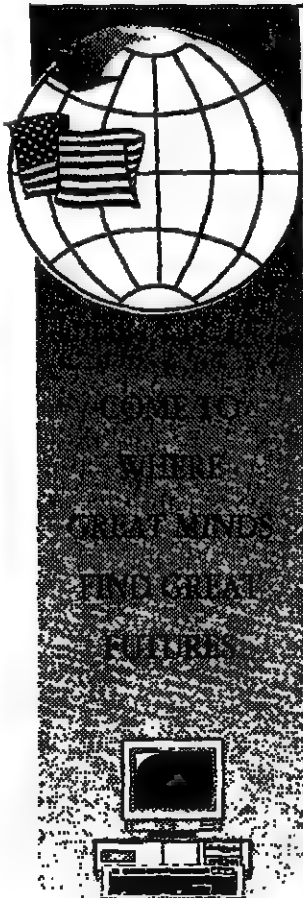
The University is seeking to appoint a person with strong management and diplomatic skills. Familiarity with information systems, particularly in a networked environment, is important but the postholder will not be expected to be a technical expert.

Salary will be dependent upon qualifications and experience but is unlikely to be less than £34,000.

Further particulars may be obtained by telephoning or writing to Mr I. W. Hallam, Personnel Director (0161-247 3315), The Manchester Metropolitan University, All Saints, Manchester, M15 6BH. The closing date for applications is Friday 3-February 1995.

Prospective applicants may discuss the post in confidence with Mr A G Williams, Services Director (0161-247-1563).

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An appreciation of marketing data and processes would be advantageous. Candidates must possess competent and articulate presentation and proposal writing skills. In addition, the ability to disseminate IT's and compile meaningful and concise responses - within tight deadlines - is expected.

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INFOTECH

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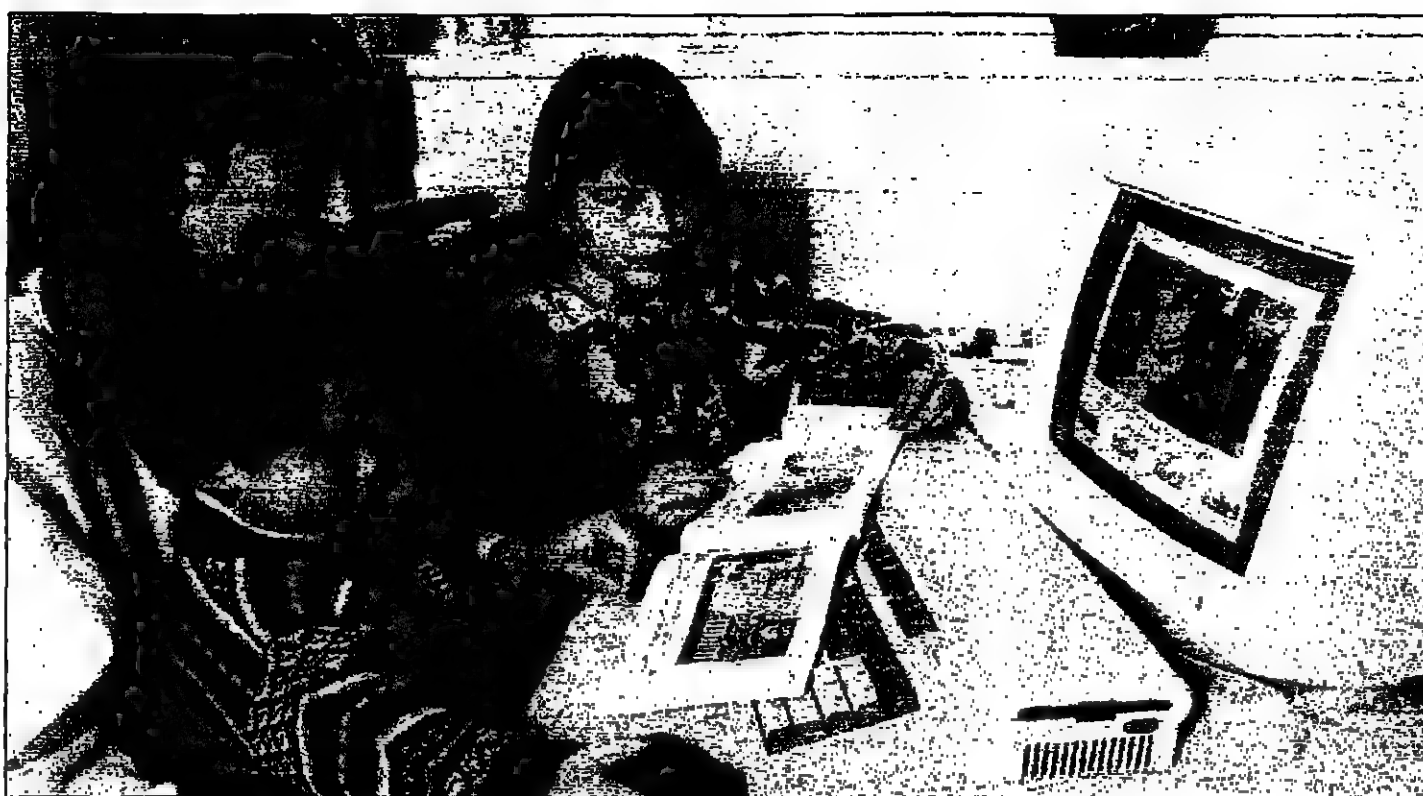
Any parent who has seen their over-excited four-year-old turned into a picture of calm concentration at the computer screen will need little persuading of the merits of early electronic learning.

If, as is predicted, about a quarter of the personal computers sold in 1995 will be to the home user, more and more parents of very young children will face a dilemma: do they put junior straight onto a grown-up PC, or is it better to start with a machine designed for the younger user?

The reality may be a mixture of both, and the options appear to be growing all the time. At the PC end of the spectrum, the home computer is no longer simply a glorified word processor. It has become a creative and reference source for all the family, whose increasingly confident older members are encouraging the youngest to get in on the act.

The younger the children, the more powerful the computer they should need, says Francis Howlett, senior programme officer with the National Council for Educational Technology. "Take the idea of children writing their first stories. If they are using a computer, they will want to illustrate them, in the same way as if they were working on paper."

That usually means plenty of memory and high-quality graphics and anyone who has tried to load a



Calm concentration — should children be put straight on to a grown-up PC, or is it better to start with a machine for younger users?

children's multimedia program only to find they are short of both will know what he means.

The same applies to CD-Rom and a package such as Dorling Kindersley's *My First Incredible Amazing Dictionary*, which should be a delightful romp through the sounds and images associated with early words, but may end up being less than perfect if the system is not up to scratch.

For these and other reasons, such

as the cost of full-scale multimedia, many parents may still consider introducing pre-school children to some kind of lower specification computer as a more realistic option. If they cannot be let loose on a proper computer, the most basic "speak and spell" alternative — from as little as £30 — may be the choice.

These electronic toys, mostly made by VTech, offer everything from *Sesame Street's* talking bird

for early letter and number work to imitation portables aimed at the older primary age child.

Nobody would seriously try to compare them with multimedia computers in areas such as graphics and sound quality, but they are a robust and relatively cheap introduction to electronic learning. Andrew Barrett, VTech's marketing manager, says: "If they weren't fun to use, children wouldn't want to play with them."

The same might be said for the new Early Years range of software which has been launched by Acorn Computers, of Cambridge, whose machines dominate the schools market.

The package is being sold with the company's starter A3010 computer at an all-in price of about £300 — minus a monitor — and includes a wide variety of material which is aimed at three to nine-year-olds.

Enter the talking medicine bottle

ONLINE

A TINY computer embedded in the caps of drug bottles is designed to solve one of medicine's most vexing problems — patients who do not take their medicine.

The Smart Cap beeps when it is time for a person to take their pills and counts how many times the cap is removed each day and at what times.

In America, patients can place the bottle on top of a small computer modem at night, which will later transmit the daily dosage times over a telephone line.

In touch

LINKING a portable computer with one of the latest GSM digital mobile phones means that busy executives can now be in touch with their offices by fax, E-mail and phone while travelling through much of Europe.

With this in mind, Mobile Communications, of Peterborough, has started selling a £1900 "portable communications centre" that, as well as a 486 laptop and suitable mobile phone, includes data cards, standby battery and charger, all housed in a purpose-built leather briefcase.

Shock news

IBM is recalling certain mains power adapters delivered with its Thinkpad portable computer. The adapters affected have the model number AA19210 and the date code 94xx, where xx is any number. The worldwide recall, says IBM, is because in remote

cases they may "pose an exposure to electric shock". Those with the relevant adaptors should call the IBM PC Response Centre on 0345 727272 or their IBM dealer to arrange a replacement.

Free fall

THE price of some CD-Roms is falling fast. One software company is offering a pack of 11 discs for an all-in price of £30. The collection, from Softkey, based in Wimbledon, southwest London, includes a selection of 250 games on one CD, black and white clip art for use on a document, letter or brochures and a disc with 1,000 recipes.

Boom time

THE world's PC market grew by a quarter last year, according to Dataquest, a research firm. The market was fuelled by a strong demand from home users and fiercely competitive prices cutting by the manufacturers.

For the first time in more than a decade, the top seller was not Apple or IBM but Compaq, which sold nearly five million PCs. IBM and Apple each sold about four million. Compaq and Packard Bell were the only companies in the top five to increase market share.

Infotech is edited by Matthew May. E-mail address: matm@delphi.com

A huge version of a watch's liquid crystal display screen could save lives

Putting raiders in the dark

The sight every bank teller dreads most is a masked raider pointing a handgun and demanding money. However, bullet-proof the glass screen is supposed to be, a raid causes deep psychological trauma to the victim.

One bank has instructed tellers to drop to the floor behind the counter the instant an attack begins. Others have installed screens that rise from the counter when the alarm is sounded, but these are expensive and need an air compressor and other equipment to make them work.

They are also potentially dangerous. Recently, a raider leaning over one was pushed to the ceiling and trapped until the fire service arrived to free him, an alarming occurrence that could accidentally involve a customer.

Now a small Liverpool firm has devised a way of totally obscuring the teller's window in less than the blink of an eye, presenting the attacker with a blank sheet of glass. It is a huge version of the liquid crystal in pocket calculator displays.

The inventor, Brian Keating, of Obscuratite, says: "The liquid crystal is normally invisible, placed between the two sheets of armoured glass in a bank screen. Putting an elec-

trical voltage across it instantly makes it dark."

The screen can be easily installed in existing screens, needs no special equipment to operate and costs about £1,200 a window to install. Though the idea is simple, Mr Keating says that now it has been made public, the security industry is discovering new applications. "London Underground wants to install it on the glass screens at Surrey Quays station in south London, so that rival football fans going to the Millwall ground can be prevented from seeing each other," he says.

A chain of bookmakers is also said to be interested. One branch was attacked repeatedly by the same man recently with what seemed to be a replica weapon, so the staff became almost blasé about it. On his most recent raid he fired it through the ceiling.

Mr Keating says the screen could also help staff at places such as DSS offices, where abuse is common. Because the glass is obscured instantaneously, the abusers cannot get in a last few curses and threats as they see the officer reaching to pull the blind down.

CHRIS PARTRIDGE



A gun raid: the moment every bank teller dreads

Internet alert for the spoofers

Matthew May reports on hackers who get top-level access to systems

Computer experts are warning this week of another new security threat to the fast-growing Internet. Hackers have found a way to circumvent some of the so-called "firewall" barriers that are designed to protect the computers of those organisations that make information available over the global computer network.

The warning comes from the Computer Emergency Response Team (Cirt), an organisation financed by the United States Government. It says that hackers using the technique are able to get top-level access to computer systems. The intruders can then copy or destroy documents or do other damage. The technique was first described in an academic paper ten years ago but is known to have been successfully used only since Christmas.

The first known victim was computer security specialist Tsutomu Shimomura, of the San Diego Supercomputer Centre. One or more culprits took over and controlled his computer on Christmas Day, stealing a large number of security programs.

The method used — called Internet spoofing — exploits a weakness in the Unix operating system, the backbone of the Internet. Spoofing can fool

the network computers that route information into believing a message is coming from an authorised source. Once inside a system, intruders can use a "hijacking tool" to take over connections from any user on the system.

Some types of networks include filters that should

prevent this type of attack, but many others do not, says Cirt. Its warning includes a list of the brands of "router computers" that can use a computer program to protect against the technique by recognising messages that have been forged and rejecting them.

Some companies are partic-

ularly concerned about hacking incidents because they are increasingly looking at the Internet as an important medium for electronic shopping and commerce. But this growth will occur only if businesses can be sure that information sent over the Internet will be safe.

Some hackers are merely mischief-makers, although they can cause expensive damage by deleting or altering information on computer systems. But others search for things such as credit-card information or commercial secrets that can be used fraudulently or sold to others.

Though credit-card numbers are the most obvious way to pay for goods ordered electronically, most companies believe that they will have to be encrypted before they are safe to use on the Internet.

Sanford Sherizen, president of Data Security Systems, a Massachusetts firm, says: "There have been a lot of cases where credit-card information has been asked for and given online. People might as well stand on a street corner and yell the information out, or get a plane and trail it in the sky."

Further information is available from Cirt over the Internet at the [ftp site ftp.sitc.cirt.org](http://ftp.sitc.cirt.org).

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Lloyd's claims to be met in order

Cox v Bankside Members Agency Ltd and Others
Before Mr Justice Phillips
(Judgment January 16)

Claims against errors and omissions underwriters made by insured agents or members acting under the Third Parties (Rights Against Insurers) Act 1930, were to be met in the order that each claimant established liability and quantum by judgment in an action, an award in arbitration or settlement.

Claimants were entitled to be indemnified under the terms of the Third Parties (Rights Against Insurers) Act 1930, and to payment orders and liability to pay pre-judgment interest.

Underwriters were entitled to set off costs incurred by them up to the level of excess against claims by or through an assured in respect of which such costs had been incurred.

The Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division so held in an action brought by originating summons by the plaintiffs, Malcolm John Cox, together with numerous Lloyd's underwriting syndicates against Bankside Members Agency Ltd and other members and managing agents and against various groups of Lloyd's names.

Agents sued by the names had the benefit, either the assured or as a group, of errors and omissions (E & O) insurance cover from the plaintiffs. Competition existed for the limited amount of E & O recovery available among names asserting rights under the Third Parties (Rights Against Insurers) Act 1930, and the still solvent assured agents.

The plaintiffs' action sought to determine the principle whereby the competing claims would fall to be resolved together, with the resolution of a number of issues in construction of the E & O policies.

Mr Jonathan Sumption, QC and Mr Michael Swaleson for the E & O underwriters; Mr Edward Nugge, QC, Mr Richard Slove, solicitor, and Mr Thomas Seymour for the Janson Green, Cul-

bert Heath, Wellington, Secretan and Sturge names associations; Mr Anthony Bonpas, QC and Mr Adam Fenwick for the Devonshire names, the Bromley 475 and the D. G. King 745 action groups; Mr Geoffrey Vos, QC, Mr Jonathan Gaisman and Mr Stephen Phillips for the Gooda Walker names; Mr Jonathan Gaisman for the Aragon names; Miss Slobohan for the Sward-Darvill; Mr Steven Berry for the various assured agents; Mr Christopher Balthurst, QC and Mr Andrew Lydard for the Feltrin names.

MR JUSTICE PHILLIPS said that on the question of the order in which the claims should be met the parties fell into two camps: those who advocated recovery on a "first past the post" basis, so that those who established their claims first would make full recovery, and those who contended that the proceeds of the various E & O covers had to be shared between those who had claims upon them, a "pro rata" basis.

Ranking of competing claims of Lloyd's E & O cover. In considering the nature of the insurer's obligations, his Lordship said that no obligation on the part of the insurer arose until the liability of the assured agent to a third party was established and quantified by judgment, arbitration award or settlement: see *Post Office v Norwich Union* [1967] 2 QB 363.

If assured agent were covered by similar E & O policies to those in this case, and subject to an overall limit of liability, the insurer would be in cumulative breach of duty to the agent each time a quantified claim was established until the sum of the claims over-whelmed the amount of the cover.

Thereafter if further third party claims were established they could not, in his Lordship's view, result in further liability on the part of the insurer. The same view, where the insurer granted cover to a group of assured agents.

His Lordship saw no basis for implying agreement between the co-assured that recoveries would be shared on a pro rata basis with

those whose liability was established only after the cover had been exhausted.

Effect of insolvency.

The ranking of claims in a situation of insolvency against E & O cover depended on the order in which the third party names established liability against the assured by judgment, arbitration award or settlement, thereby giving rise to a vested right on the part of the assured to indemnity in accordance with the terms of the cover.

The effect of insolvency, under the 1930 Act, was simply to transfer the rights from the assured agents to the third party names who had established, or proceeded to establish, quantified liability against the assured. The ranking of claims and the amount recoverable were therefore unaffected by the transfer.

If the quantified liability had not been established at the date of insolvency, a third party name asserting a claim would be transferred under the Act merely an inchoate or contingent right, if before that time established a quantified claim, other quantified claims were established which exhausted the cover, the contingent right would be rendered nugatory.

Priority of liabilities to pay third party costs.

His Lordship said that, following the governing principle in *Post Office v Norwich Union* such legal costs formed independent claims which did not fall to be ranked in the system of priority until the amount thereof had been determined by agreement or taxation.

It was common ground between the parties that claims were subject to the excess under the relevant policy such that early claimants had no entitlement to payment until the excess had been applied and exhausted.

Interest.

Whether the E & O underwriters were liable in respect of interest awarded to names under section 35A of the Supreme Court Act 1981, as inserted by section 15(1) of the

Schedule 1 to the Administration of Justice Act 1982, depended on the true construction of the policies.

Under each of them the underwriters agreed to indemnify the assured against their legal liability for "compensatory damages and/or costs and/or legal expenses". In his Lordship's view, the phrase "compensatory damages" extended to include interest awarded under the 1981 Act.

His Lordship rejected a contention that there was an implied obligation on the part of the underwriters to indemnify the assured against the liability to pay interest that was not subject to the limit of cover.

The implied right to an indemnity would not normally arise, his Lordship said, in respect of the consequence of an order or request if the party claiming the indemnity had not contractually agreed to accept the risk of that consequence.

In the present case, the risk of incurring liability to pay interest under the 1981 Act was an automatic consequence of the exercise of E & O insurers' contractual right to require a claim to be defended. Furthermore, on his Lordship's construction of the ambit of the word "damages" the contract expressly conferred a right, albeit a limited right, to an indemnity in respect of the liability to pay such interest.

The effect of conditions in the policy was that until the excess had been exhausted the assured had to bear the costs himself and thereafter until the limit was exhausted the underwriters were liable for defence costs incurred with their consent.

The question was what was the position where the underwriters had funded the whole of the defence costs including that lying within the excess as in cases where the agent was insolvent.

His Lordship considered, inter alia, that, presuming that the insured was legally liable to pay solicitors instructed in the conduct of the defence, the assured would be under an obligation to reimburse the underwriters for the

funding of costs which fell within the excess.

Applying established principles of set-off, the obligation to reimburse gave rise to a right of set-off on the part of underwriters against a claim for indemnity from that particular assured. The position was unchanged where the names had stepped into the shoes of the assured.

Interim payment. His Lordship's judgment an order for interim payment could properly and naturally be described as damages and accordingly fell within the terms of the policy that the underwriter would indemnify the assured against all sums which "the assured had become legally liable to pay as damages".

Furthermore, an interim payment order satisfied the requirement laid down in *Post Office v Norwich Union*.

Review of priorities. Vested rights to an indemnity on the part of an assured might arise in a number of circumstances each of which required the establishment of a quantified loss on the part of the assured. Those were: (1) the incurring of defence costs with the consent of the underwriters;

(2) the establishment of a quantified liability to third parties to pay damages or costs as a result of (a) settlement, (b) arbitration award, (c) interim payment order, (d) judgment and (e) taxation. Until the excess was exhausted such losses had to be borne by the assured so the initial effect of such losses as they occurred was to reduce the outstanding excess until that had been fully borne by the assured. Thereafter the quantified losses gave rise to successful liabilities in the order in which they were established until the limit of cover was reached.

Solicitors: Clarke & Co S. J. Berrin, D. J. Freeman, More Fisher, Brown and Eversheds, Fern Chalmers, Bishop and Stephen Mitchell & Co, Wild Sage, Macfarlane, Huxall, Esdaile & Co, Ashurst, Morris, Crisp and Manches & Co, Richards Butler.

Cause of action accrues when loss crystallises

First National Commercial Bank plc v Humberts
Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Saville
(Judgment January 13)

Where as a result of a negligent valuation the plaintiff lender suffered loss on an advance made to a borrower, the cause of action in tort against the valuer accrued on the earliest occasion when the plaintiff's loss crystallised, namely the date of sale of the security, and not the date when the advance was made.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by the plaintiff lender, the First National Commercial Bank plc, from the decision of Judge David Smith, QC, sitting as a High Court judge, in *First National Commercial Bank plc v Humberts* [1994] 2 AC 223 held that the mortgage in that case, which would not have advanced money to the mortgagee but for a negligently high valuation, could not recover from the valuer the outstanding interest due from the mortgagee, for in the absence of the negligence there would have been no mortgage.

In July 1983 the plaintiffs advanced money on a property in reliance on a valuation provided by Humberts, the defendant valuers, in May 1983 in the sum of £4.4 million. The borrowers were now insolvent and the security taken for the advance proved insufficient to recover the amounts owed. The plaintiffs alleged that the valuation was made negligently and that if a proper valuation of £2.7 million had been made they would not have entered into the loan agreement or made any of the advances.

The plaintiffs issued a writ against the valuers on March 20, 1990. The plaintiffs' case before the judge was that their action was not statute barred because their cause of action accrued after March 20, 1984.

James Townsend, QC and Mr Clive Newson for the plaintiffs; Mr Michael Lever QC and Mr David Tucker for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE SAVILLE said that for the purposes of the preliminary issue, it was to be assumed that the defendants owed a duty of care to the plaintiffs and were in May 1983 in breach of that duty. It was the last sale of the property for the tort of negligence only arose when there had been a breach of duty resulting in actual loss or damage recognised by the law.

The main submission of the defendants was that the cause of action for negligence in tort, which was, on the evidence, the financing deal that

the plaintiffs had made in 1983 was of substantially less value in money terms as an investment than it would have been had the valuation of £4.4 million been accurate, so that by reason of the negligence the plaintiffs sustained an actual loss in 1983 of that difference in value.

In his Lordship's judgment that submission was incorrect, since loss of that kind was not recognised by the law as flowing from the assumed breach of duty. Had the defendants performed the duty, by providing an accurate valuation of £2.7 million, the plaintiffs would not have entered into the transaction at all.

It seemed to his Lordship to be for precisely the same reason that the House of Lords in *Swindle v Gibson* [1991] 2 AC 223 held that the mortgage in that case, which would not have advanced money to the mortgagee but for a negligently high valuation, could not recover from the valuer the outstanding interest due from the mortgagee, for in the absence of the negligence there would have been no mortgage.

It was convenient at that point to consider what loss and damage the plaintiffs asserted they suffered as a result of the assumed negligence. The plaintiffs first calculated the amount that they had advanced and expended under the financing deal.

Against that they set the amounts they had recovered. On those figures the recoveries exceeded the outlay; but the plaintiffs claimed that they had sustained a loss on one of two bases.

The first was founded on the assertion that, but for the negligence, they would have employed that outlay profitably by lending to others; that that profit would have been substantially greater than the amount by which their recoveries exceeded their actual outlay, and that accordingly they had lost the difference between that amount and the profit they would have made. The second basis was to add to the outlay the cost to the plaintiffs of borrowing the money to fund the deal, which resulted in the recoveries falling short of the total expenditure of the plaintiffs, and to claim that shortfall as the loss sustained.

If either of them represented the legally correct method of calculating what loss or damage the plaintiffs sustained from the assumed breach of duty, then the cause of action would have accrued at the time when the advance was made.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Waite agreed.

Solicitors: Stewarts, Kennedy.

Unlawful service can be false imprisonment

Pritchard v Ministry of Defence

Unlawfully requiring a person to serve in the armed forces could constitute the tort of false imprisonment, since the power of compulsion available under military law was sufficient to restrain to constitute imprisonment.

Judge Previl, QC, sitting as a High Court Judge of the Queen's

Bench Division, so held on December 21 when dismissing the claim of James Kenneth Pritchard that he had been compelled by the Ministry of Defence to continue to serve as a soldier in the British Army for about 16 months between November 1981 and March 1983.

HIS LORDSHIP was satisfied on the evidence that the plaintiff was lawfully committed to serve in

the Army for the period in dispute.

The Ministry had argued that being required to serve in the armed services could not constitute imprisonment because there was no total restraint.

His Lordship agreed that while it was true that the plaintiff was granted to the individual while on army service, for example, freedom to move about within or

outside barracks when not on duty, nevertheless a soldier was at all other times subject to restriction as to where he might be or what he might do and that restriction would be enforced, if necessary, by military law. The availability of the power of compulsion was sufficient to constitute imprisonment, whether or not the compulsion had been exercised.

Leave needed to scrap crash cars

Regina v Bedford

Procedures should be put in place to ensure that cars involved in accidents were not scrapped before being given by the police. That permission should never be given where serious criminal charges were to be brought, which might involve the possibility of some mechanical defect in the car.

Creditor's duty of disclosure of disadvantageous arrangement

Levent and Others v Barclays Bank plc

Before Mr Michael Burton, QC
(Judgment November 21)

A creditor was under a duty to disclose to a surety contractual arrangements made between the principal debtor and the creditor which made the principal contract something materially different in its substance from the contract as presented to the surety.

His Lordship said that the proceedings should have been stayed as an abuse of the process of the court. The appellants' case was that the most probable explanation of the crash was a mechanical failure of the car, which was scrapped before the defence could examine it. The police had not given authority for the car to be scrapped; on the other hand they had given no instructions for it to be examined.

The jurisdiction to stay could be exercised in many different circumstances. Two main strands could be detected in the authorities: cases where the court considered that the defendant had not received a fair trial; or it would be unfair for the defendant to be tried.

The circumstances of such cases required separate consideration. On the facts of the present case, the absence of the car had not affected the fairness of the trial.

The circumstances of such cases required separate consideration. On the facts of the present case, the absence of the car had not affected the fairness of the trial.

His Lordship said that Mr and Mrs Levent had allowed their short dated Treasury stock to be used as security to assist a Mr and Mrs Levent, his solicitor, to borrow money from Barclays Bank plc on their own behalf.

They were only prepared to do so if they were sure to get the stock back before its maturity date.

Unknown to the Levents and to the bank, Mr Hole had only recently been discharged from bankruptcy and Mr Lewis was already being investigated by the Law Society and was in due course made bankrupt himself and struck off as a solicitor.

The Levents signed powers of attorney for Mr Lewis in respect of the Treasury stock and received signed letters from Mr Hole and Mr Lewis undertaking to return the Treasury stock before their maturity date free of any encumbrances.

The arrangement that Mr Hole and Mr Lewis made with the bank was for a bridging loan until maturity of the Treasury stock which would be put into the bank's name so that on maturity the funds would go directly to repay the bridging loan.

The plaintiffs claimed that the bank had failed to comply with a duty to disclose material differences between the loan agreement with the bank and that which was presented to the Levents as a security to assist a Mr and Mrs Levent, his solicitor, to borrow money from Barclays Bank plc on their own behalf.

After considering *Hamilton v Watson* (1845) 12 Cl & Fin 107 and *Cooper v National Provincial Bank Ltd* (1946) KB 1, his Lordship concluded that the principle appeared to be that there was

imposed upon a creditor a duty to disclose unusual terms unknown to the surety.

It was quite clear that there was a contractual agreement between the bank and Mr Lewis and Mr Hole that the method of repayment would be the use of the realised proceeds from the Treasury stock on the date of its maturity.

There was an arrangement which made the terms of the principal contract materially different from that which sureties would expect in a potentially disadvantageous respect.

There was not just a risk that the bank would not against the security but a certainty.

It was a fundamental part of the loan that it was to be repaid out of the stock.

In the light of the authorities, the court was satisfied that the transaction was not a bona fide loan, but a disguised loan, and that the Levents and the bank were entitled to expect that the terms were automatically unusual.

The case of non-disclosure was therefore proved, and it was a material non-disclosure, in the sense of being a concealment of facts which the Levents would have acted differently if they had known the true position.

Solicitors: Macfarlane, Eversheds, Phillips & Buck, Cardiff.

Appeal procedure validates flawed hearing

Regina v Governors of St Gregory's RC Aided High School and Another, Ex parte

Before Mr Justice Turner
(Judgment December 2)

Although an exclusion hearing before school governors was flawed, the procedure adopted at a subsequent hearing by the appeals committee was fair and that was sufficient to allow the court to hold that their decision was valid.

Mr Justice Turner so stated in a judgment in the Queen's Bench Division when refusing to grant to Matthew Lee Roberts judicial review of a decision of the governing body of St Gregory's RC Aided High School, Warrington, of October 7, 1992 to exclude him from the school and a like decision on the school appeals committee on January 22, 1993.

Roberts was said to have sworn in the presence of a teacher. He was indefinitely excluded by the headmaster. On appeal, the governors decided not to order his reinstatement and shortly thereafter the headmaster ordered that the exclusion be made permanent.

Following a hearing by the appeals committee he was notified that the permanent exclusion was a reasonable response to the behaviour which was the subject matter of the complaint.

Mr Philip Edgerton for Roberts; Miss Carol Dickinson for the school.

MR JUSTICE TURNER said that the procedure at the first hearing before the governors was unquestionably flawed by the misunderstanding that Roberts himself had no right to be heard, albeit that his mother was present and was permitted to ask the headmaster questions and make representations on his behalf.

that the decisions of both the governors and the appeals committee were fundamentally flawed. Furthermore, he contended that the case was one where the existence of a separate right of appeal and decision by the appeal committee would be a defect of the original proceedings so that if the original hearing was flawed nothing which subsequently took place could cure the defect in the original proceedings: see *Lloyd v McNeil* (1987) AC 625.

It was evident from the Bench Division when refusing to grant to Matthew Lee Roberts judicial review of a decision of the governing body of St Gregory's RC Aided High School, Warrington, of October 7, 1992 to exclude him from the school and a like decision on the school appeals committee on January 22, 1993.

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unfairness. It would have been quite unrealistic to suppose that the witnesses would have had a hearing before the appeals committee rather than a re-hearing of what they had earlier said about it.

For the committee to have approached their task in the same way that would have been appropriate to a hearing in the crown court would have lacked a proper sense of balance.

That Roberts should have been allowed to give his account of the matter was an act of obvious fairness, quite apart from the express requirement of the *Education Act 1980* and *the Education (No 2) Act 1986* published in March 1992 by the Association of County Councils and Association of Metropolitan Authorities in consultation with the Council on Tribunals.

It was plain that by their decision the committee accepted that Roberts had been responsible for the behaviour complained of and that the decision permanently to exclude was a reasonable response to that behaviour.

How far in any given case it was necessary for a body such as the appeals committee to spell out the reasons for their decision had to be a matter of individual choice and decision by that body in the light of the circumstances, including the extent of the perceived capacity of the principal actors to understand the nature, as well as the course, of the proceedings in question.

In the present case there was good reason to believe that Roberts' father, as well as Roberts himself, fully understood what was transpired at the hearing. It was also clear that his father considered at the time that he had received a fair hearing.

The decision would have been the same even if the principle of proportionality formed a part of the domestic law of the UK courts.

His Lordship stated that even had he been persuaded that the relevant decisions were Wednesbury unreasonable, he would have refused relief. That was because since Roberts had now passed the minimum age for compulsory education and was presently undergoing training in agriculture, intervention by way of court order would not have achieved any material advantage to him. It would not have achieved reinstatement at school.

Solicitors: Peter Lieb, Cardiff.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

INSURANCE COMPANIES ACT 1982

THE DOMINION INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

TRANSFER OF GENERAL BUSINESS

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

That the Dominion Insurance Company Limited ("Dominion") applied to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on 21 January 1994 for his approval, pursuant to Part II of Schedule 2 to the Insurance Companies Act 1982, to transfer to the Dominion Insurance Company Limited all of its rights and obligations under:

a. the property, liability, fire, public and employer's liability, personal accident and contingent business insurance policies written by Dominion with inception dates between 1 November 1994 and 31 December 1994;

b. Copies of the Statement of Particulars of the proposed transfer are available for inspection at the offices of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Department of Trade and Industry, Insurance Division, 14-18 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0EX, between 9.00am and 5.00pm on Monday to Friday until 27 February 1995.

A written representation concerning the transfer may be sent to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Department of Trade and Industry, Insurance Division, 14-18 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0EX, before 27 February 1995.

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MUSIC page 32

Jack Brymer celebrates his 80th birthday with masterpieces of the clarinet repertoire

ARTS

POP page 33

How Simple Minds changed their attitude, found a new look and launched a comeback



THEATRE: Fine revivals of Strindberg and Shakespeare reviewed, plus Adrian Noble's plans for the RSC next season

Holy roller-coaster ride

Easter
Barbican Pit

How odd and unsettling that the RSC should stage a superb revival of *Easter* barely a week after the Almeida did almost equal justice to *The Dance of Death*. It is not merely that Strindberg wrote them both during the same frantic month, October 1900. It is that *Easter* is a remarkably generous and forgiving play, while *The Dance of Death* exudes a sharp cynicism. Even those not temperamentally inclined to suspect that Bacon wrote Shakespeare might reasonably wonder if more than one dramatist wasn't responsible.

Actually, more than one was, for several Strindbergs inhabited the same body and used the same pen. Certainly, no dramatist was more prone to radical mood-swings and mind-loops. We are talking of a man who variously looked for salves for his confusion and pain in Catholicism, Buddhism, socialism, Swedenborgian mysticism, Darwinism, the occult, alchemy, writing and marriage. *The Dance of Death* was written by Strindberg the severe behavioural scientist. *Easter*, by Strindberg the Christian.

This is signalled at the very start of Katie Mitchell's production. A painting of the Last Supper is projected on to the back wall to the sound of the *St John Passion*. As the action moves from Maundy Thursday to Easter Day, so does the iconography, until the play ends with Christ resurrected and Bach triumphant. By that time the Heyst family — mother, son Elis, daughter Eleanora — have passed from gloom to a qualified joy.

Sounds sentimentally un-Strindbergian? Not the way Mitchell directs. Remembering that father Heyst is in jail for fraud while his kin fearfully await his principal creditor, she and her designer, Rosa Maggiora, have given the Pit a dour debitor's look. Indeed, they have opened it to its walls, coloured them grey, and furnished the space in between with little more than a clock, a gas-meter, an old piano, a few



Lucy Whybrow and Adrian Rawlins as Strindbergian siblings Eleanora and Elis Heyst, going from gloom to a qualified joy in Holy Week

battered chairs and lots of yellowish light. Remember Mitchell's recent productions of *Ghosts* and *Ruthless* and *Son of Man*? Once again she has laid a stage waste, only to cram it with human feeling.

Starting with Susan Brown's fiercely protective mother, the principal performers leave you wondering why they are relatively unknown.

Adrian Rawlins, correctly twiggling that Elis has much of Strindberg in him, comes complete with pale face, moustache and straggly hair, plus nerve-ends forever emitting restlessness, insecurity and paranoia. Meanwhile, Lucy Whybrow brings a gawky, ingenious intensity, and with it life and energy, to the near-impossible role of Eleanora, a holy

fool on the run from an asylum. This is an actress who can rabbit on about hearing birds talk, and seem the opposite of mawkish.

In case you don't know it, I'll say little about the ending except that it might be equally mawkish, since Strindberg is suggesting that, while suffering is inevitable, kindness, mercy and even happiness also exist.

But with Philip Locke rivetingly forceful as the creditor the family has unthinkingly demonised, this comes across not as wishful thinking, but as a tough truth earned the hard way. Strindberg's *Easter* mood passed, but you're left in no doubt that at the time it was a genuine passion.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Three into two won't go

Once again the Young Vic is coming to the RSC's rescue

How to fit three feet into two shoes — that is what its director, Adrian Noble, ruefully describes as an "ongoing problem" for the RSC, which has only the Barbican and the Pit as London homes for its transfers from the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, the Swan and the Other Place. And the problem becomes positively un-hinging when the Stratford season has been particularly well received and busy, as was the case last year.

When he revealed the company's plans for 1995-96 yesterday, Noble was able to announce a temporary solution. As it has done once or twice in the past, the RSC will take its excess cargo to the Young Vic. Between June and September it will restage both David Edgar's latest foray into Eastern Europe, *Penicost*, and John Barton's revival of *Peer Gynt*, with the excellent Alex Jennings. Add a pair of new productions by the Young Vic's own co-director, David Thacker — Shakespeare's *Tempest* and Edward Bond's backhanded tribute to the Bard, *Bingo* — and there is no danger of a summer full in Waterloo.

But is prolonged occupation by the RSC altogether good news for the Young Vic itself? Tim Supple's revival of John Byrne's *Slab Boys* trilogy, a huge critical success, and the marvellous *Grimm Tales*, which was a commercial one too, suggested that his regime was at last forging the strong identity the theatre has lacked since Thacker's exit. But unless he can slot something home-grown around the visiting productions about to descend on him, we will have to wait for the Young Vic's silver jubilee in the autumn to be sure of its progress.

As Noble's bullish mood confirms, there are no such worries for the RSC. All last year's Stratford offerings are en route south, giving Londoners the chance to see Jennings's Angelo in *Measure for Measure*, Emma Fielding's Viola and Des Barri's Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, and Toby Stephens's Coriolanus, among other fine performances. Moreover, the Barbican Centre sees coincidental revivals of lesser-known works by major dramatists who died in 1994: John Osborne's *Hapsburg* and homosexuality *Patriot for Me* and, in the

Pit, Dennis Potter's Christ play, *Son of Man*.

No special shape is discernible in the mix of acknowledged masterpieces, modern revivals and new plays that constitutes the RSC's coming London season. Noble sees slightly more pattern to the new Stratford one. But that seems to mean only that there are three seldom performed European classics at the Swan and Other Place: Euripides's *Phoenician Women*, Calderón's *Palmer of Dishonour*, and Michael Bogdanov's production of both parts of *Faust*.

On the face of it, the main-house choices at Stratford this year — *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Julius Caesar* and *Richard III* — are unadventurous. But each has a point of special interest. *The Shrew* is an RSC debut for



Adrian Noble: "best job"

the highly-regarded Australian director, Gale Edwards. *Caesar* marks Peter Hall's first RSC production for nearly 30 years. *Julius* will be played by the promising Lucy Whybrow (see review, left). Richard will be David Troughton, currently both hero and anti-hero of Goldoni's *Venetian Twins*.

It was the likes of these that came to Noble's mind when I fed him the question everyone is asking behind his back. Is he a likely candidate when Richard Eyre retires as the National's artistic director in 1997? His answer was a pretty emphatic no, on the grounds that he had the better job anyway. Would the National allow him to form a cohesive company, and help actors to develop, grow and come into their own? I can see his point.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Sorting out the men from the boys

DONALD COOPER



Adrian Lester (top) as Rosalind and Simon Coates as Celia

Cheek by Jowl's revived production has been out on the international circuit since October. New York, Moscow, two days in Barcelona and Bucharest, three in Sofia, back to New York, two days in Jerusalem, two weeks at Peter Brook's Bouffes du Nord in Paris. Now it is in a big fat theatre in the West End, with a dress circle and an upper circle and a gallery: a far cry from the intimate Dorset House.

This is their most celebrated production, the all-male Shakespeare from 1991, with several members of the original cast re-creating their roles. Here is Richard Cant's daffy, long-legged Audrey, sandwiched between four couriers and happily beating time to their hey-nony-nonnies. Here is Peter Needham's Touchstone, part spiv, part e-seg-ant, slapping on a red nose for his terrible jokes and rattling through his "he direct" speech with joyful relish, aided by his Audrey who mouths significant words almost into the Duke's ear.

David Hobbs again plays both Dukes, each so different

As You Like It
Albery

in mien and voice that without the programme's help you would suppose two actors are playing them. The ediled Duke is sometimes presented as the wise Thoreau type but here, pottering around with pockets full of stones, there is a hint that he is actually barking mad. "Books in the running brooks, sermons in stones." He will soon be turning over the ripples to locate a favourite quotation.

Here again is Adrian Lester's captivating Rosalind, hesitant, trembling, sweetly impulsive, sheltering a book between cupped palms as though it were a newborn puppy. His light, bubbling voice — lurching into frank desire when the lines speak of Orlando's manly parts — tumbles over itself with almost girlish enthusiasm. I say "almost" because it remains a man's idea of a girl, with vulnerability adopted as the keynote. This makes the harshness of the verbal attack

on Wayne Cater's Phebe hard to accommodate within the character Lester has hitherto been showing us.

The production itself develops a harsher tone than I remember from last time. Celia's dismay at her beloved friend's withdrawal makes dramatic sense. Simon Coates, very much the highborn lady whose eyes glaze over when the yokels witter on, is often sitting at the front of the stage, schoolgirl's diary forgotten, like Andersen's grieving mermaid. But the character that Declan Donnellan's direction draws out of Jacques is questionable. Michael Gardiner points the cynicism in a strong, icy precise voice and his collapse, weeping, onto the lap of Rosalind (now disguised

as a boy) feels right. But he then goes round propositioning man after man, even at the wedding, and this feels wrong.

The show is often marvelously funny, though the sight of men playing women is usually the source of it. The diction of some members of the cast needs to be clearer. On the beige-box set (design by Nick Ormerod) props are minimal. Long after we have entered the Forest of Arden no trees are visible — until they are actually wanted, so that sonnets can be pinned to them, whereupon green streamers roll down from above. Up till then we have been required to use our imagination. I like that.

JEREMY KINGSTON

DANCE: Debra Craine is disappointed in Dartford by the Royal Ballet

Showcase of the biters bit

They called it Dance Bites because it was to be the cutting edge of new choreography for the Royal Ballet. And last year's Dance Bites tour to the regions did at least fulfil some of its brief to showcase exciting experimental work by Royal Opera House choreographers. But perhaps they should just have called this year's tour Dance Bites.

Six short pieces, followed by last year's big hit *Herman Schmerman*, make up the programme for the 1995 tour, which began this week in Dartford and moves to Cambridge on Saturday. The evening at Dartford's Orchard Theatre, however, fell prey to the danger in this kind of all-sorts programming, and never rose to a sense of occasion, especially so much of what was on offer was poorly prepared and, in some cases, poorly danced.

William Tuckett got us in the mood with his three-minute solo. *All Things Com-*

Ortuela did not very much to the jazz standard "Lover Man" (played on stage by the London Jazz Quintet) other than lead from her hips and flash her long legs. By contrast, the revival of *A Shropshire Lad*, one of Tuckett's first professional works, reminded us of the choreographer's early promise. Danced to settings by George Butterworth and E.J. Moeran of a selection of poems from A.E. Housman's collection, the beautifully rounded movement captured the nostalgia of memory and the acceptance of the passing of time. All four dancers were excellent. Belinda Hailey in particular as the lone woman.

The *Thais* pas de deux, which was sandwiched be-

ings, was risible. Leanne Benjamin and Michael Nunn treated Ashton's hushed reverence to such exaggerated reverence that one had to wonder if they were actually attempting to parody it. Their clumsy efforts were not helped by the noisy combination of Benjamin's heavy pointe shoes and the unyielding stage.

The only substantial new choreography was to be found in *Two Or Three Dialogues* by Ashley Page. Here Page returns to the territory of *Bloodlines*: high-tech, classism driven by a thrashing rock score (in this case by Brian Enno). The choreography draws on a familiar arsenal of Page moves — legs attacking, partners pulling each other off

up to any interesting conclusions, no matter how well danced they were by Ann de Vos and William Trevitt.

Matthew Hart's revived *Solo to Shostakovich* was interesting and unpredictable, a body-slapping, sporadically balletic, primitivist display of choreography well handled by Ricardo Corvera.

What should have been the evening's highlight was its biggest disappointment — the company premiere of Balanchine's 1972 pas de deux *Duo Concertant*. The choreographer meant it to illustrate the relationship between movement and music: violinist Yuri Turchinsky and pianist Philip Gammone were on stage throughout. But Doreen Russell and Jonathan Cope were ill at ease with the long moments when they were required to listen to the Stravinsky score; and lifeless when they actually began to dance. A lot of work will have to be done if *Duo Concertant* is to make a successful transfer to

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POP ON FRIDAY: Knocking the Brats; Simple Minds return; a national institution lives; McAlmont's debut

The whole evening is one big Blur

Winner takes all in this year's predictable Brat awards. Can't the judges be more imaginative?

Obviously someone was a little jumpy it might be the Mercury Awards all over again. As you may recall, last year the Mercury Award — a little matter of £25,000 and a statue shaped like a fork — was won by M. People, something the odds-on favourites Blur were none too pleased about. Graham Coxon overturned his table, and the band ended up giving away their "Runners-Up" statue, presumably in disgust over the judges' decision.

The next day, and for a long and weary month after, the papers were full of various music critics' puzzlement over the adjudication, and industry parties were always slightly tense, in case the pineapple-headed singer from M. People and Graham Coxon found themselves next to each other at the bar. Those were grim, grim days.

So this week, the judges at the NME Brats Awards, obviously mindful that breaches of the peace command hefty fines nowadays, and rather fond of the decor at the Empire, Leicester Square, played it safe by giving all they had to Blur. Best Video? Yeah, sure. Best Album? Go on. Best Single? It's on the side there, help yourselves. Best Band? Why not — do you want fries with that? And how about a carrier bag to put them in?

However, as commendable as the Brats are — and they are the lack of nominations for Kate Bush or Eric Clapton at any awards ceremony is enough to gladden my heart, even on the rainiest of Thursdays — there is still the numbing categorisation and tokenism that every Music Industry Sports Day seems to bring out in the judges of these things.

Although the staff of NME would probably be the first to admit that their paper is still, primarily, *The White Middle Class Indie Weekly*, for an award ceremony as high profile as this, it is a little disappointing to see all of 1994's rap, hip-hop, G-funk, techno, ragga, jungle, ambi-

ent and trip-hop output under the two catchalls of "Best Rap Act" and "Best Dance Act" — particularly when Fortishead won the "Best Dance Act" going. Fortishead specialise in heavy-lidded, four-in-the-morning hopelessness and obsession — they're basically The Smiths with the bass turned up — and the chances that anyone has ever done anything more strenuous and rhythmic to their album than smoke a cigarette are distinctly slim.

So why were they in the "Dance Act" category? Because they're not white-boy indie music, and therefore need to be shoved into the nearest pigeon-hole the judges could find. Similarly, the "Best Album" nominations could also have doubled-up as the "Most Popular Band T-shirts on the Streets of Britain Today" and the "Most Posters Sold in HMV" award.

with Suede, Blur, Pulp, Manic Street Preachers, Oasis and Nirvana all predictably, if commendably, present.

We need award ceremonies that truly inspire — it would be marvellous if, some time in the future, a high-profile shindig such as the Brats gave the "Best Album" trophy to a record we didn't all know by heart, and that wasn't pumping out of the speakers in Top Shop 24-hours-a-day.

After several magazines named Portishead's *Dummy* their Album of the Year, it went straight back in the charts at No 3. Award ceremonies work — they can make a band famous; they put previously unknown artists on the same footing as creaky old men in stinky trousers, like Meat Loaf.

It's time for organisers of award ceremonies to decide whether they want to go for simple back-slapping sessions or really commend and reward artists of the future. The Brats have their hearts in the right place. Let's hope that next year, their votes are too.

And not a sausage for M. People. How strange.



CAITLIN MORAN



Time for a change: Charlie Burchill (left) and Jim Kerr, the duo known as Simple Minds, have a newly-relaxed attitude to life these days — they've even grown their hair

Only the best will do now

With a new album out next week, and a British tour set for March, Simple Minds are back in business, as Alan Jackson reports

Pop stars dress differently from you and me, and today Jim Kerr is looking extraordinarily splendid in the sort of crushed velvet pants 'n' shirt-type ensemble, bottle green and black, that could make even Michael Hutchence weep with envy. Feeling horribly drab by comparison, — grey, even Dries Van Noten grey, is such an un-rock 'n' roll colour — I offer a compliment, hand-on-heart, sincerely. "Christmas presents," he responds, with the hint of a twinkle in his eye. "You've got to wear 'em, haven't you? Otherwise they think you're not pleased." And so is revealed another truth: Santa brings groovier gifts to pop stars too.

But if Kerr favours fabrics rarely worn in his city of birth, Glasgow, by other than party girls on a spree, at least he wears them well. Slim and fit-looking at 35, he is also enjoyably good company, amiable and frequently self-deprecating, a long hike from the dour and rather pompous personality that popular prejudice imagines it knows. Perhaps it is his three-year-old marriage to actress Patsy Kensit that has helped him to chill out... Whatever the reason, he and his musical partner in Simple Minds, former school friend Charlie Burchill, seem to have a newly-relaxed attitude to life these days. Why, after years of neat and tidy stylings, they've even grown their hair.

"We've just had our first letter from a fan about the 'new look', and it's hilarious," Kerr grins, breakfasting at a Holland Park hotel before flying off to America to launch "She's a River", the comeback single that debuted convincingly at No 9 here at home this week. "It was so incredibly grumpy in tone. 'What do you think you're playing at? You look like a couple of them awful New Age travellers.' " "Ha!," those dismissive of the pair's unmistakable brand of important-sounding pop may say in response. "We always knew Simple Minds' audience was made up of people who press creases in their jeans and spray-starch their T-shirts." But change, albeit subtle, is on the way.

"We know a lot of people write us off as stadium-rockers, and we understand why," he continues. "We accept it too, because no one forced us to go along that route. It was our own choice." An odd one perhaps, given the fact that their first musical vehicle was a short-lived pub band with art-rock pretensions. Johnny and the Self-Abusers. But the ability to play live has always been crucial to Simple Minds' sense of self as schoolboys, the two would skip classes to try and crew for visiting

bands, any bands, just to feel themselves part of the whole sound-and-light experience. And because chart acclaim was a long time coming — they were five albums into their career before they had a major hit single — this sustaining love of performing helped to build and maintain self-confidence.

"We couldn't get into the Top 40, but we were able to prove to ourselves that our music could work before a vast audience by getting on to the bill for all those giant European festivals you get in the summer," Kerr explains. "You might have Van Morrison or Elvis Costello headlining, even though the size of event wasn't always suitable for their music. Yet somehow, despite the fact that these huge crowds hadn't come specifically to hear us, the dynamic of our songs seemed to work in such circumstances. We felt we were on the threshold of something, and when success allowed us to fill big venues by ourselves, we were keen to step through the door, however uncool our contemporaries deemed it to be."

"In retrospect, maybe we should have thought more about the consequences," he then concedes. "Probably the only time you saw Simple Minds on TV was against a backdrop

of millions of people at events like Live Aid or Mandela Day, for example, and the image stuck in people's minds. Essentially, it was a very 1980s mentality... big, bigger, biggest."

But now it's the 1990s, and the prevailing zeitgeist is that conspicuous display is vulgar. Subtly, then, Kerr and Burchill have responded by shunning off their additional band members, opting instead to bring in session players for recording and touring, and have also changed management. And in the three-and-a-half-year lay-off since their last LP, 1991's patchy, disappointing *Real Life*, they have concentrated hard on their songwriting partnership. The result is a new album, *Good News from the Real World*, released on Monday by Virgin, that represents their freshest, most consistent work in a decade.

"Without realising it, we'd gone on to autopilot," Kerr admits. "It had become a case of, 'If it sounds impressive, we'll leave it at that.' But this time we threw down the gauntlet to ourselves. If we couldn't offer better songs than we'd done before, we weren't interested." The consequent tracks — recorded in Los Angeles with Keith Forsey, architect

of their 1985 US No 1, "Don't You Forget About Me" — hardly represent "Simple Minds: Unplugged"; they are big and busy and still full of trademark swagger. But one rolls into the next with an energy you'd forgotten them capable of, and, against the chiming tones of Burchill's guitar, Kerr's voice is revealed anew as one of the most stirring and assured in British pop.

At a time when most other artists with a similar track record would be settling for at-home photo spreads in *Hello!* rather than any re-engagement with their muse, Kerr remains palpably in love with the idea of making music. "I try to avoid all the 'Seen arriving at this or that premiere with his lovely wife' stuff," he says, of an otherwise determinedly low profile. "There are events she has to go to simply because they're part of her job, but I tend to view them as the antithesis of mine. And then there's the personal naughtiness monitor."

A man not only with his feet on the ground then, but also — it is revealed when he crosses his legs and a gap emerges between boot top and velvet trouser hem — very top-starry white sports socks on those feet. An endearing touch, that.

Simple Minds are at the Sheffield Arena (March 22), Manchester G-Mex (March 23), Birmingham NEC (March 24-25), and Wembley Arena (March 26-27). Simple Minds' new album is reviewed in *The Times* tomorrow

Dizzying cocktail from Thieves' den

McAlmont
McAlmont (Hut/Virgin 7243 8 39696)

McAlmont's debut album has been subject to more delays than the Channel Tunnel. But now, at last, the world can discover for itself what all the fuss is about.

In a life that has taken him from his birthplace in Guyana and back to the London pub circuit as one half of the duo Thieves, singer David McAlmont has absorbed a dizzying cocktail of influences. Those that are most detectable include Marvin Gaye, David Bowie, the Clocrats Twins and Joni Mitchell, whose composition "Conversation" from *Ladies Of The Canyon* he reinvents here as a gay love song.

It is a stylish and seductive collection, and if anything the production (by Ed Buller, Paul Sampson, McAlmont and his former partner in Thieves, Saul Freeman) is rather too lavish for such a new talent. With his syrupy, falsetto voice gently cushioned by the most sophisticated of modern, electro-soul arrangements, songs such as "Is It Raining?" and the current single "Either here or now is too long/Easier changes mine."

At other times he can be disarmingly uncomplicated. "He loves you and I remember when he looked at you and you felt the same," he sings in "He Loves You" with that

NEW ALBUMS: David Sinclair

watches the sun rise on the solo recording career of David McAlmont

heart-rugging quiver that is his most appealing trademark.

No ordinary soul singer or lover man, McAlmont is a talent to be negotiated on his own terms. And now that he has arrived, it doesn't sound as if he will be gone in a hurry.

THE WOLFGANG PRESS
Funky Little Demons
(4AD CAD 4016)
HAVING ploughed a long and lonely furrow on the arty/indie margins of rock since the release of their debut album, *The Burden Of Mules* in 1983, the Wolfgang Press have suddenly found themselves thrust into the limelight thanks to the unlikely patronage of Tom Jones. The bellowing boy included two of their songs on his acclaimed comeback album, *The Lead And How To Swing It*, and his impromptu appearances at one or two of their gigs brought a touch of hip-swivel-

ling hoopla to the group's otherwise rather dour and introverted persona.

The resulting attention has come at an opportune moment, given that *Funky Little Demons* — which has nothing to do with Jones — is the most enjoyable and broadly accessible collection of songs the north London trio have come up with yet. On the single, "Going South", Michael Allen's sepulchral voice is married to an upbeat, funk-rock groove with a result which sounds as if Nick Cave had wandered into an INXS session.

Thoughts of an equally unlikely alliance between T Rex and Lou Reed are conjured by the rock riff and deadpan vocal of "She's So Soft", while the sinister synth-pop of "Blood Satisfaction" and "Derek The Confessor" would not have sounded out of place on the first Tindersticks album.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | The Colour Of My Love | Celine Dion (Epic) |
| 2 | Carry On Up The Charts | Beautiful South (Golf Discs) |
| 3 | Dummy | Portishead (Golf Discs) |
| 4 | Definitely Maybe | Oasis (Creation) |
| 5 | Always and Forever | Eternal (EMI) |
| 6 | Pulp Fiction | Various (MCA) |
| 7 | Deeds | Thunder (EMI) |
| 8 | Crocodile Shoes | Jimmy Nail (East West) |
| 9 | Paradise | Blur (Food) |
| 10 | Balance | Van Halen (Warner Brothers) |

Compiled by MJB



McAlmont: A long time coming, but now here to stay

VAN HALEN

Balance

(Warner Bros 9362-45760)

THE dictates of fashion, logic or just plain decency would suggest that Van Halen's days of ascendancy would long be over by now. But no. They topped the American chart with each of their last three albums, and will probably do it again with *Balance*.

A throwback to the days when heavy rock meant chests and trousers puffed tight, Van Halen's songs all start with a preliminary statement of the riff swiftly followed by an introductory peacock yelp from singer Sammy Hagar. The numbers quickly build up a juggernaut impetus, irrespective of tempo, and explode at some point into a squealing guitar solo.

Extraordinarily, given that it is such a hidebound formula, they still find some pretty neat twists. And say what you will, Alex Van Halen's two-

minute percussion solo, "Doin' Time", is superb.

LITTLE AXE

The Wolf That House Built

(Wired Recordings/M&G)

WIRED 27

RHYTHM sections don't come much more decorated than Skip McDonald (guitar), Doug Wimbish (bass) and Keith LeBlanc (drums), veterans since the early 1970s of the Sugarhill House Band. Adrian Sherwood's Tackhead and individual sessions without number.

Their latest project, Little Axe is a brave and witty attempt to link the raw spirit of the blues to the multicultural roots music and sci-fi technology of the 1990s. Unfortunately, no matter how artfully they pin all the different bits together, it ends up sounding like a bunch of highly accomplished musicians with a surfeit of effects pedals, badly in need of a tune.

CONCERT: A display of versatility from an undervalued veteran

Not just an old folkie

Richard Thompson
Corn Exchange, Cambridge

the Elvis fan of "From Galway to Graceland".

The sentiments may often be gloomy, but the show is not. Whatever the mood, the rhythms and melodies are

busy being beautiful. And in between, the Thompsons tease each other, striking poses and pulling faces like two seasoned pantomime dames. When singer Christine Collister joins them, they mimic The Bachelors before giving a luscious version of "Wall of Death".

Each new Richard Thompson record provokes the same speculation: will this one launch him into the big time? The tribute album will add fuel to this tired flame. But he will probably continue as a neglected monument, acknowledged but under-appreciated until it is too late. It is a thought that he, too, entertains. "Now I'm dead," he sings, "I'm making a living."

JOHN STREET



TANITA TIKARAM
1 MIGHT BE DRYING
THE NEW SINGLE NOW ON CD AND CASSETTE. THE FORTHCOMING ALB IN THE CITY.

Big names struggle in Hallberg's shadow

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN MANILA

YOU would have thought that one of the world-famous golfers imported to the Philippines at considerable expense would take the lead in the first round of the Johnnie Walker Classic, but not a bit of it. The tournament that includes six of the world's top ten and eight of the top 13 players is being led by a man who is ranked No 623.

Mats Hallberg, of Sweden, outscored Greg Norman, Nick Price, Fred Couples, Ernie Els, Severiano Ballesteros, Bernhard Langer, Colin Montgomerie and David Frost at The Orchard course outside Manila. Hallberg, who has twice

as did Couples, Montgomerie, 73, complained of having difficulty in breathing and retired to his hotel room immediately after his round.

Price landed a 100-yard approach shot with a sand wedge short of a green and watched it run nearly 30 yards and over the back. It was as if he was playing on a links course in Britain instead of one designed by Arnold Palmer in the Far East.

"I can't remember the last time that happened to me," Price said, "and it wasn't as if I got a flir from the rough. I was playing from the middle of the fairway."

Still, the travails that were visited on these players were as nothing compared with those that confronted Raymond Burns, 21, from Northern Ireland.

Burns finished joint-eighth last week in his first tournament on the European Tour, only to crash to earth with an 84 in the first round of his second.

One week ago, Burns started the Desert Classic with a 67 and ended the tournament an aggregate of 13 under par and £10,000 the richer. After such a performance, it had seemed a good idea to watch the most promising young man to emerge from the Warrenpoint area.

Burns, who puffs furiously on a cigarette between shots, holds his hands very low at the address, has a strong grip and a flowing swing. His approach appears as uncomplicated on the course as it is off it. He walks up to the ball and hits it.

"What did you learn from finishing eight-equal in Dubai?" Burns was asked.

"Not to stay up until two o'clock in the morning playing cards," he said.

Just in case Burns thought that golf was an easy, he now discovered it to be anything but. He had four bogeys, two double bogeys and an eight on one of the shortest par fours on the course.

His round included a missed 12-inch putt, playing the wrong ball and twice hitting into water that is such a prominent feature on this course. It was his worst score since a pre-qualifying round in the 1993 Amateur Championship.

In a game in which mental control plays such an important role, no lasting advantage is gained without adversity. Yesterday's experience should have done him a world of good.

FIRST ROUND

(25 and in unless stated) 88: M Hallberg (Swe), 72: A Collat, P Eales, M Fernandez (Malaysia), S Grapson (Fil), J Hespman (Swe), 71: P Slater (Aus), J Hespman (Swe), R Abery (Aus), N Price (Zim), R Chapman, S Torrance, 70: M Davis, I Aoki (Japan), S Watson, G J Brand, P Coules (US), G Norman (Aus), D Clark, 70: M A North, I Palmer (SA), P Broadhurst, C Montgomerie, S Ballesteros (S), D Hogg (Nor), A Brown (Ire), S Shiner (Ger), C Casale (Phi), P Rocco (I), P Walker, Ruanes (Phi), P Ladd, S Gannon (Sri), 74: I Gando (Sri), P O'Malley (Aus), R Burward, C Casale, R Harrison (Swe), D Frost (SA), L Porter (US), S Cato, A Sharborn, M Langer (Swe), M Campbell (NZ), M Gormley (Swe), J Sardon (Swe), P Gunasagaran (Malaysia), M Harwood (Aus), "Hong Chao-Tu (Taiwan), R Hestley, S Langer (Ger), S Ballesteros, S Petch (US).

* continued on page 35

finished second in tournaments in Europe, had a 69, three under par, to lead by one stroke from a group of five that includes Joakim Haeggman, of Sweden, Andrew Coltart, one of Scotland's Dunhill Cup team in 1994, and Paul Eales, the winner of last year's Extremadura Open.

Hallberg, 30, has been untouched by fame in his career as a professional golfer. "I have been struggling for some years," he said.

"Do you mean financially or with your golf?" he was asked.

"When you struggle with your golf, you struggle financially," he replied.

For once, almost everyone but Hallberg struggled on the 7,016yd course. There were two reasons. It was made to play even longer by the effect of a strong wind and made yet more difficult by the firmness of its greens, which were unresponsive to any but the shortest of shots. One player after another spoke of the difficulty of the course.

Ballesteros signed for a 73 and was grateful that it was not more. Els ran up a seven on a par four hole on the way to a 78. Norman had a six on the par four 9th and took a 72.

Water sport that reaches absurd depths

It is like this: two teams of six, one lot dressed in swimming gear with white caps — the others wear black caps — all 12 with snorkels and flippers and white gloves reinforced with bath sealant to protect the knuckles and white or black hardwood sticks that look like boomerangs which failed their inspection, stand at the pool ends waiting for an official to say "go".

Then they dive under the water, as do two water referees, who wear red caps and have yellow rubber washing-up gloves on their hands. If you're watching, which would be foolish for this is the ultimate in non-spectator sports, you see an occasional flipper break the surface of the water and ever and anon players come up for air before going back down again.

We are asked to believe that at the bottom of the pool is a 3lb, solid, lead puck which looks like an outside tin of gentlemen's relish and at each end a three metre wide metal gulley with a trough; that it is the aim of the teams to use their sticks to flick or



Octopush, the ultimate in non-spectator sports, makes a splash at the Guildford Leisure Centre



FREUD ON FRIDAY

push the puck into the opponent's trough, an event which is signalled by a raised yellow washing-up glove and acknowledged by the chief referee, who is out of the pool and rings a gong that reverberates under the water and persuades participants to come up, return to the side and wait for the command to continue.

If this is a hoax, I fell for it. The people at Guildford Leisure Centre insisted that the game is called octopush (there used to be eight in a team) and is regulated by the British Octopush Association (BOA), the controlling body of underwater hockey in the United Kingdom; that there are over 100 British teams spanning the social spectrum; and every two years a world championship.

Last year this was held in Normandy and in the women's division we beat the French 1-0; got stuffed 16-0 by the South Africans. In world rankings, the United Kingdom is third behind Australia and South Africa.

A game takes 30 minutes, 15 minutes each half with two minutes for rest and repairs. It is veritably a game of two halves, especially in pools which slope. Crystal Palace, Ealing, Manchester and Shet-

field are the only four locations that have evenly bottomed pools.

Goodness, what else can one say?

The flippers worn by players are longer and more flexible than those worn by divers.

The sticks, which are whitened by players and can be of any hardwood of their choice, have a 15-degree bevel on each edge so that you can flick from the outside, scoop from the inner... and it is a non-contact sport, not that one would notice an underwater assault until the blood rose to the top.

Touching the puck with anything but the stick wins the other side a free puck and if a foul is committed in the goal area, it is a penalty.

Simple contest: two attackers against one defender. They usually score.

Teams may have four substitutes who can go in as soon as an injured or weary player comes out; subbing on the fly,

shown her work and admired it a lot — she is a seasoned international, our foremost woman player, wears a shirt bearing the legend "UK Barbarian Underwater Hockey Team", which is a 100 per cent

anything (there is also the considerable problem of player identification) you should consult no one else.

The address is: Colver Farm, Old Compton Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8EJ.

If you live within driving distance of Guildford, the Leisure Centre — clearly signposted from the A3 — is the jewel in the crown of leisure centres of the world and it makes money for the local authority.

Admission is 50p. Ice skating, netball, tennis, bowls, gymnastics, pools, saunas, Jacuzzis, exercise classes, martial arts schools, squash, amusement machines and a host of other activities are good value extras. Cappuccino costs 70p, Glenfiddich single malt £1.39.

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'It is veritably a game of two halves especially in pools which slope'

this is called, and although I was unable to find a copy, there is — they insist — a quarterly magazine called Octopush News with a print run well into three figures.

What a lot I do not know about. Clare Stratton is the development officer of the BOA. A sculptor of talent — I was

conversation-provoking logo. Should any reader have good lungs, a love of water, the ability to whistle 12-inch pieces of walnut into bespoke underwater hockey sticks (one white and one black) which fit the size of the hand... and have no need for supporters because when you are underwater you can't hear

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England's call leads Brown to rethink on retirement

Alix Ramsay meets a woman hockey player hoping to revive her international career

THERE is not much Karen Brown has not seen, done or won in hockey. Her record of 231 international caps, some won at World Cups, European Cups and Olympic Games, speaks for itself. So when she called it a day at top level in 1992, after winning an Olympic bronze medal with Great Britain, she had few regrets.

Now Maggie Souyave, the new England coach, has reawakened the old competitive instincts and Brown, at the age of 32, is making a comeback. With the European championships in June as her goal, she will test herself this weekend in two internationals against Russia at Bisham Abbey.

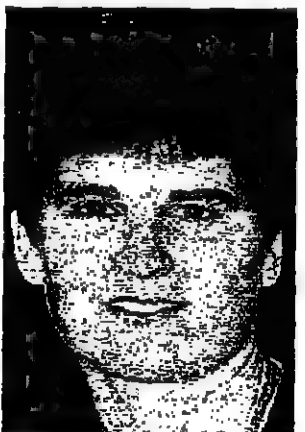
Despite all her experience and the fact she is still an exceptional player at club level with Slough — only last week she was voted player of the year by the Hockey Writers' Association — she is still nervous about the first game tomorrow.

"I had hoped it would be a quiet comeback at a training weekend," she said. "But with the award and the two internationals it is a lot bigger than I expected. I don't think I'm good enough, to be honest. I know I'm not as good as I was five or six years ago and we will see whether I'm still good enough to play for England. But I will know that before anyone else does."

Souyave, however, has faith. "She's got vast experience and she's a quality player. She'll be tremendously important to us off the field as well as on it. She can make other players play as well as herself."

Brown's decision to retire after the last Olympics was brought about by two factors. One was a chronic back problem that had plagued her throughout her career; the other was her banking career. In Barcelona, close to her thirtieth birthday, she felt the time had come to concentrate on her job with National Westminster.

Now, given the bank's blessing, she is ready to put her reputation on the line. "What have I got to lose?" she said. "If I don't get selected, nobody



Brown: new challenge

can take away from me what I have already achieved. The appetite is still there. It is the challenge of pitting yourself against the top players in the country and then, better still, playing against the best in the world.

"When I first started everyone said I was too young," Brown said. "Now people say I'm too old. I can't after that, so I don't think about it." Souyave, who is still playing club hockey at 41, is dismissive of the age factor.

"It is whether they are still mentally aware and want to be involved," she said. "Whether they want to pack their bags and go out and train. If that side is right then age is irrelevant."

At least with seven Slough players in the squad Brown will feel at home but, after two and half years away from international competition, the Russians are a mystery. "I'm looking at fitting into my own team without worrying about them," she said. "I'm looking forward to it but, come tomorrow and Sunday, I know I'll be nervous, but you know it's right when you're nervous."

Everest to pull out of show jumping

EVEREST Double Glazing, the leading British show-jumping sponsor for nearly 30 years, is pulling out of the sport at the end of the year (Jenny MacArthur writes).

The surprise announcement, after a decision by the company to bring "a fresh approach and new ideas" to promotional strategy, will leave Britain's three leading riders, Nick Skelton, Michael and John Whitaker, without a sponsor.

The company also supports Liz and Ted Edgar's Everest Stud, their daughter, Marie, and their former stable jockey, Geoff Luckett. Numerous competitions at county and national level were sponsored by Everest, including the National Championships.

"Their withdrawal is a very serious business," Andrew Findlay, the secretary-general of the British Show Jumping Association, said yesterday. "The National Championships at Wembley and the three new team trials they introduced are a particular loss."

Ted Edgar, speaking from his Warwickshire yard, said he would have to "sell up" if he could not find a sponsor by the end of the year.

Jerry Gregeen, Everest's equestrian specialist, has been told by the company that she can have the rest of the year to concentrate on finding sponsors for the riders. Everest will release them before their contracts end if a sponsor is found.

Although the company has not disclosed the amount of money they have put into the sport, it is believed to run into several million pounds.

Wigan's Auckland warrior will play fast and loose

The night, a year ago, that Vaga Tuigamala, the former All Black wing, made his home rugby league debut for Wigan, he had his thunder stolen by a fellow Auckland — a young stick of inspiration called Henry Paul.

Paul lit up a workmanlike Wakefield Trinity side, and beamed, Wigan were highly impressed. So much so that, although Paul was signed up by Auckland Warriors, Jack Robinson, the Wigan chairman, found a way of securing Paul on a four-year contract in exchange for Andy Platt.

Wigan felt that, at 31, probably the best years were behind Paul. The Great Britain prop. It was smart business: Platt would have brought a fee of £70,000 under the international transfer ceiling. Swapping Platt for someone of Paul's talent and versatility, especially being ten years his junior,

was the "steal of the century", according to Robinson. Paul, from the Te Atatu club, was the prodigious and outrageously confident captain of the 1993 Junior Kiwis touring side. It offered him a taste of what to expect in Great Britain. He stayed on and scored 111 points in 19 appearances for a Wakefield, but England was a staging post to a high-profile Wigan Cup career — until Wigan's intervention.

"Once Wigan were interested, loyalty to John Monie [the coach of Auckland] was the only thing keeping me with the Warriors," Paul said. "I feel now that I am at the greatest rugby league club in

the world. I love the fact that the town ticks to whatever the club does."

Tomorrow is the first real day of reckoning for Paul. Wigan meet Warrington in the Regal Trophy final. "We're winning matches, but no prizes as yet," Paul said.

Once on the field, a case of lighting the blue touchpaper and standing back holds true, but in five months at Wigan, Paul has matured. "Attack, attack, attack. I love it, except you have to temper that," he said. "Defending was probably my weakest area, one I'm continuing to work at, to the point where making the tackle is as satisfying as riding one."

The sticky 5ft 11in frame is deceptive. There has been the odd on-field disciplinary scrape, but there are few finer sights in rugby league than Paul breaking tackles and haring into space. Utility player is a description that hardly does him justice: full back, stand-off half, centre, loose forward — "a favourite right now" — and sometimes as many as three of those roles in one game.

Tuigamala, a ball of a man compared with the whipper-like Paul, is both friend and training partner. They share a mutual admiration. "Taga is just one of those big lovable bears, a great player, the sort of Samoan we used to get at home coming at you like crazy coconuts," Paul said.

Although contrasting individuals, it is the smooth transition of the likes of Paul and Tuigamala into the side that ensures Wigan's sustained success, and in Paul, the club also has a ready-made goal-kicking replacement for Erano Botica, who leaves for Auckland in May.

Christopher Irvine finds Henry Paul at one with Central Park

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Paul in training with Wigan yesterday for the Regal Trophy final tomorrow. Photograph: Barry Greenwood

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Pierce and Sánchez Vicario steer clear of trouble on way to final

Sampras draws on hidden courage

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN MELBOURNE

PETE SAMPRAS, set a series of Herculean tasks at the Australian Open, has one more to go before he completes his mission. His final duty will be to defend his title on Sunday here at Flinders Park against either Andre Agassi, the second seed, or Aaron Krickstein.

Whereas Arantxa Sánchez Vicario and Mary Pierce have skipped into the women's final tomorrow without dropping a set or even being taken to a tie-break, he has been climbing an ever-steepening incline. At least he has now been granted two days' grace after wearing down Michael Chang, the fifth seed, yesterday over more than three hours.

"My game feels good," Sampras says. His body does not. Sore and stiff after his courageous comeback against Jim Courier (judges as respected as Fred Stolle and John Barrett have described the quarter-final as the finest match they have seen), it took a while for the taut muscles to be loosened.

By the time they had, he found himself a set down for the third successive round. Moreover, an opponent he had known since childhood had added an unexpected attacking weapon to an almost exclusively defensive style. Chang, though only 5ft 9in, has recently developed a penetrating and varied service.

Sampras looked up at the informative scoreboard.

RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES: Semi-finals: P. Sampras (US) vs M. Chang (US) 6-7, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

MEN'S DOUBLES: Semi-finals: M. Krieger (US) and D. Nestor (CAN) vs P. Lajtha (HUN) and P. McEnroe (US) 6-3, 2-6, 6-4, 6-6, 6-4.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Semi-finals: M. Pierce (FR) vs C. Martínez (ESP) 6-3, 6-1; A. Sánchez Vicario (ESP) vs M. Wozniak (POL) 6-3, 6-4, 6-7, 4-6, 7-5.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Semi-finals: G. Fernández (ESP) and S. Martínez (ESP) vs J. Hingis (SLO) and L. Raymond (US) 6-3, 6-4; J. Novotná (CZ) and A. Sánchez Vicario (ESP) vs M. Bollegraf (HOL) and L. Neiland (LAT) 7-5, 6-7.

Mixed DOUBLES: Quarter-finals: T. Woodbridge (AUS) and H. Suková (CZ) vs J. Sánchez Vicario (ESP) and L. Neiland (LAT) 6-3, 6-4; R. Lajtha (HUN) and M. J. Fernández (US) vs S. Stolle (AUS) and M. J. Fernández (US) 6-3, 6-4.

BOYS' SINGLES: Third round: L. Jongschaap (AUS) vs J. Delgado (GB) 6-2, 6-3; M. Way (AUS) vs S. A. Zeman (AUS) 6-1, 6-1.

BOYS' DOUBLES: Second round: J. Delgado (GB) and A. Hernandez (MEX) vs M. Way (AUS) and S. A. Zeman (AUS) 6-1, 6-1.

pinned below the roof of the stadium, and shook his head as he was left floundering again midway through the second set. "Ten aces," he muttered in bewilderment. Chang's total was to be 20—to Sampras's 13.

Conveniently for Sampras, that was also the time when the rest of Chang's wholly dependable game temporarily, but decisively, fell apart. Committing as many mistakes as he would usually make throughout a tournament, he allowed the No 1 seed to accelerate from 4-3 in the second set to 4-0 in the third.

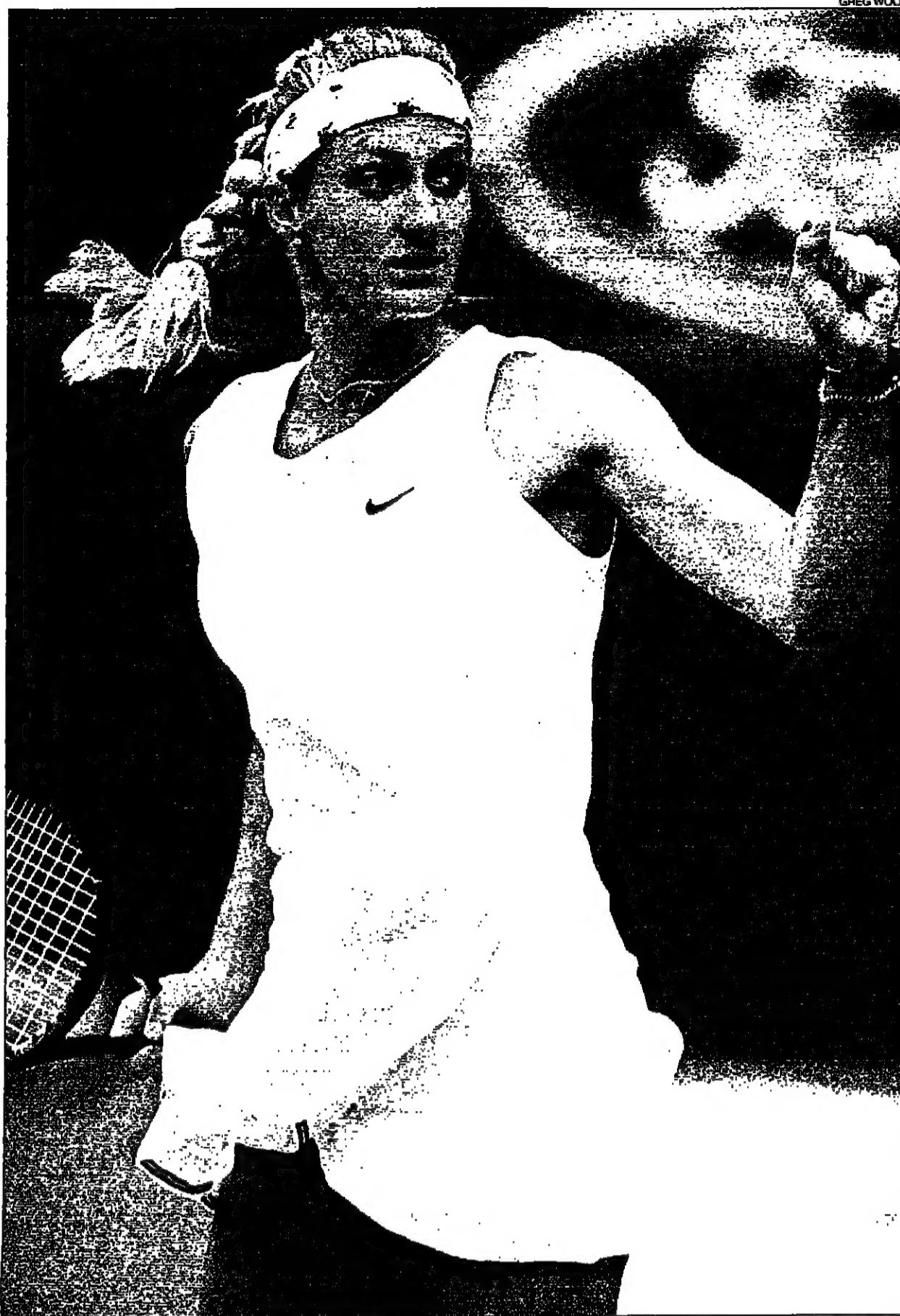
Sampras had enough momentum to carry him to the verge of the final and, once he had broken to lead 3-2 in the fourth set, could free-wheel the rest of the way. Not that Chang, other than during his uncharacteristic lapse, offered him any easy points. He even ran to and from his chair to collect a cap as the sun emerged.

Beaten 6-7, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4, Chang wrapped an arm around his American competitor and accompanied him off court before voicing his admiration for him. "He's handled these last couple of weeks very well. He's shown compassion while remaining focused. He's shown sides of him we've not seen before."

Concerned about his ailing coach, Tim Gullikson, the victim of a third stroke, Sampras was too emotionally distraught and physically exhausted after coming back from two-set deficits against Magnus Larsson and Courier to speak at length in midweek. Yesterday he enlarged on his view of his achievements which, even by his standards, have been extraordinary.

"This is special because of the circumstances. I was down and out twice and I've shown more heart than ever before. I may look lackadaisical but I've shown that I will do whatever I need to win. I've never felt as bad on court as I did then [against Courier]. My body refused to move."

To relax, he went to a concert by REM on Wednesday night and intends to play "a quick nine holes" of golf today. He will also discuss tactics on the telephone with Gullikson, for whom he shed tears during the quarter-final.



Pierce punches the air in satisfaction after winning a crucial point in her semi-final victory over Martínez

before preparing for the last of his mighty oracles.

Neither Sánchez Vicario, the No 1 seed, nor Pierce, the No 4 seed, has been subjected effectively to anything more taxing than a pleasurable training session. Without the leading protagonists, the psychologically damaged Monica Seles and the physically injured Steffi Graf, women's tennis has been seen in a dire light over the past fortnight.

According to Conchita Mar-

timez, it is "exciting". Nonetheless, bereft of belief since she became the Wimbledon champion, she contributed to the predictability of her defeat against Pierce. "I just didn't play," she admitted. "I made so many mistakes." Scarcely credibly, she claimed that the reason for her lethargy was the early start. That was at 11am.

Broken every time she served in the second set, she went down 6-3, 6-1 in little more than an hour. Pierce was upbeat afterwards: "I'm happy with the way I am playing, but I think I can play better. I'm human... you can't play your best tennis all the time," she said.

At least Sánchez Vicario was made to work harder by the unseeded Marianne Werdel Witmeyer but, in going through to the final 6-4, 6-1, she was kept on court for only a couple of minutes longer. The duration of the matches

was deceptive. Pierce, for the second successive round, was officially warned for wasting time and both she and Martínez were granted three-minute time-outs to receive treatment for injuries which, neither beforehand nor afterwards, seemed to be affecting them adversely.

A replay of the French Open final, the conclusion of the women's championship tomorrow should at least lift the lowly standard.

Chargers' slim hopes rest on Means-testing

Andrew Longmore says the odds are stacked against the underdogs in Super Bowl XXIX

FOR all connoisseurs of the sporting upset, Super Bowl XXIX is developing an abiding and hypnotic fascination. Compared with the San Diego Chargers' chances of defeating the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday, Buster Douglas was a stone-cold certainty to knock out Mike Tyson and Wrexham were odds-on to beat Arsenal in the FA Cup. Just how shocking can sport get?

The problem for the Chargers and the 2,300-strong media host trying to whip up some enthusiasm for what the United States has already designated a "dead game" is that American football does not encourage shocks. On the day, it is not 11 v 11, but 45 v 45, which reduces the margin of error by about a quarter, and it is an interesting reflection of the difference between the British and American way of sport that there is no sympathy for the oppressed among the many neutrals here, no notion of sport's capacity for romance. David slaying Goliath is bad for business. Damn the Chargers and their scrappy team, they will ruin the showroom window.

The Chargers themselves seem to sense they are not wanted. Their camp is at Fort Lauderdale, a good hour's drive from the centre of Miami, and their arrival a day later than the 49ers suggested a debutante's reluctance to go to the ball. "The way I look at it," Dale Lindsey, one of the coaches, said, "is that they've already sold the tickets, the game's scheduled on TV. We can't back out now. We gotta show up and play."

If the team, picked by one scribe in a pre-season poll as potentially the worst in the whole of the National Football League, is aware of its shortcomings, it has so far shown a tightrope-walker's flair for balancing reality and fantasy. "To win, we will need a perfect game and a little help from the man upstairs," as Tony Martin, a wide receiver, said.

The Chargers are not prone to empty boasts nor, wisely, have they been drawn into denigrating what could be one of the greatest teams in Super Bowl history. Yet the fact that, in the face of such giants as Deion Sanders, Jerry Rice and Steve Young, their hopes of victory are invested in an outside 22-year-old second-year professional and a dumpy quarterback reject from the Washington Redskins suggests even divine intervention might not be enough.

Natrone — pronounced Nay-trone — Means, the Chargers' running back, is

still a baby in footballing terms, a very big baby at nearly 17st, admittedly, but a baby nonetheless. He has a chubby face and a slight stammer that enhances the image, but his bulk allied to an awkward style of running makes tackling a steamroller the preferable alternative for opposing defences.

Means has, above all, no sense of how difficult a game professional football can be. The closest he has come to sporting failure was when his mother stopped him from playing at college for a year to make him concentrate on his studies. His confidence has been infectious. "We'll be in a huddle," the wide receiver, Shawn Jefferson, said, "and he'll say: 'Y'all block. You guys get your man and I'll take care of the rest.'"

He has done, too, wearing



Means: confidence

down defences to such effect that the Chargers have become known as the last-minute men. They have been ahead for an astonishing total of just five minutes and 48 seconds out of the 120 minutes of their two play-off games, which is a tribute to their stamina and the nerve of their abrasive quarterback, Stan Humphries, a native of Louisiana with a reputation at the Redskins for being talented but lazy.

Humphries's ability to pull off some big plays at the death has characterised the stunning progress of the Chargers to their first Super Bowl, just as his inelegant victory jig after Miami Dolphins had missed a last-minute field goal in the play-off game reflected the down-home quality of his bit-and-piece team. What little evidence there is for a Chargers' victory rests on the unlikely combination of Means and Humphries and on an unshakeable belief in the Chargers' camp that, if all else fails, destiny is on their side. History, and most of America, certainly are not.

Rowell dampens embers by congratulating French

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

JACK ROWELL, the England team manager, took a significant step yesterday towards defusing the inflammatory situation which has arisen, not for the first time, between England and France in the days leading up to their clash at Twickenham in the rugby union five nations' championship.

Rowell proffered congratulations to Pierre Berbizier, the coach of France, for dropping Olivier Merle from the XV to play England in response to the head-butting incident in which Merle was involved against Wales last week. Rowell is anxious that a war of words, to which the players from neither side have contributed, should not provoke a

destructive game when the countries meet on February 4.

"If Merle has been dropped for what he did, that's an example everyone will refer to in the future and sets standards," Rowell told a Sports Writers' Association lunch in London. "It's a credit to the people who have done it." He has not seen the incident which led to Ricky Evans, the Wales prop, breaking a leg, but seeks a code of conduct to which all countries will adhere.

"There has been a lot of brouhaha over this issue, and when the International Rugby Football Board meets next, it may decide that it should sort it out," Rowell added. "It all comes back to standards. In a

rucking situation, it's inherent that people take the knocks and don't complain."

It has been suggested in France that the Rugby Football Union (RFU) should take action against Ben Clarke, the Bath back-row forward who received the first yellow card in international rugby, against Ireland last weekend, for stamping. But Rowell, emphasising a question of degree, warned the game's administrators that, in an increasingly litigious age, uniformity on disciplinary issues is essential.

He rejected comparison with the Tim Rodber affair in South Africa last summer, since a properly-converted tribunal dealt with the case immediately. However, the RFU has made recommendations to improve disciplinary hearings by not involving team managers in the judicial side. "If the French set standards, it's for everyone else to aspire to them," Rowell said. "Why can't people sit down and integrate the complete procedure?"

Victor Ubogu, the Bath prop who was himself the object of dangerous play during the game at Lansdowne Road, spoke for players in all countries when he said: "As long as there are uniform rules, I don't see a problem. The World Cup this year gives the international board the chance to stabilise rules throughout the world, particularly over discipline."

Alwynne Evans, from Moseley, has been appointed the first full-time secretary to the Senior Clubs Association in England, from a field of over 150 candidates. Evans has occupied this role in an honorary capacity since 1991.

Voices from past exhort Wales to increase tempo

I am not sure to whom the following exhortations should be attributed: "A second wasted is nine yards long... one quick heel from the loose is worth five from the tight."

It could be to Cliff Jones, the great Welsh stand-off half of the Thirties, who used to give advice on such matters all the time, or to his mentor, T. P. "Pope" Williams, who converted the Welsh firefly from football to rugby at Llandovery College. Speed was the essence of both men.

Unlike much of the jargon that infiltrates modern rugby, of needing to keep the "dynamic going", and with the purpose of "achieving total rugby", and of plan A and plan B, and of vagueness that attends them all, these axioms of long ago have at least the merit of creating a picture in the mind of what the purpose should be.

The modern coach influenced by all manner of sophisticated systems and theories may pooch-pooch such a simple view. The game has changed, is the common refrain as the squad settles down to ponder the flip charts, replay the video before going on to consider whether its dietary needs have been amply catered for. Much as today's youth think they invented sex, so the modern rugby player thinks he invented rugby.

Yes, all these things have been introduced for the greater good of the team's performance, but at the expense, I imagine, of the richness of the player's daily life. So many sacrifices have they to make that it was with



GERALD DAVIES

Rugby Commentary

relief I read Brian Moore had time to go to the opera.

Speed is the message that wings its way from the 1920s and is as true today as it ever has been. Control is fine and is a critical factor. To win the ball is to control the game. But, by and large, this is interpreted to mean slowing down the tempo. This is safe. To raise the tempo is to increase the risk and to demand more of the players' skills which, if successful, brings commensurate reward. This is what England have been wrestling with and upon which Wales, too, need to ponder.

Wales's rehabilitation during the last four years under the management of Bob Norster and Alan Davies has been a necessarily gradual process. The first task was to restore the morale of a shattered rugby psyche. This they did so that there has been no shortage of courage and character. But such characteristics are never enough.

The Welsh spirit might have been more swiftly restored had Wales possessed as England have been so infinitely well blessed, with lineout experts. In the combination of Gareth Llewellyn finding it more profitable in the front of the line and Derwyn Jones in the middle, Possession is coming their way at last.

The opening five nations' championship match against France last weekend highlighted the next step Wales need to take. If Wales are coping in the set-piece play, they are not in the loose. The ball does not return quickly enough to be of any advantage to the backs.

Admittedly, the refereeing of what should happen after the tackle was not uniformly applied. Too much scrabbling on the floor was allowed. But the indications were that when Wales had the ball they drove forward so long and so far that they allowed the momentum to dissipate and finally come to a halt. The ball was released as a last and sterile option.

In the circumstances Wales's half backs and threequarters were at a standstill, while the opposition's defence was given time to reorganise. There is no point in throwing bricks at Robert Jones or Neil Jenkins, at half back. They merely inherit the problems. A quick release while the forwards' momentum is gathering finds the back division running on to the ball at an opposition that is likely to be in retreat, in disarray and outnumbered. The conundrum for Wales is how not to waste all those seconds among the forwards which can be so valuable in creating those vital yards in the backs.



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These two-night breaks are based at the Hotel Ambassade, an elegant three-star hotel converted from several canal houses, on the Herengracht. The hotel is decorated with antiques and has a lounge and a breakfast room. All rooms have a telephone, a television and a safe. Flights are with British Airways.



Answers from page 40

NEKULTURNY

(a) One who is by Russian standards considered unenlightened. To a bore. Also nekulturny. W. Miller in *Russians as People*: "It accuses someone of being nekulturny is not a light matter... It may signify that you do not clean your teeth, that you never read a book or that you are pushing rudely or giving way to a coarse expression of opinion."

LAPPIE

(a) A dish-cloth or small rag, as first used by the Boers. Also formerly *lappie*. 1970, *Cape Times*: "There had been dramatic evidence about the finding of the lappie and the hair stuck in the middle."

HOUNGAN

(a) A priest of the Voodoo cult, the native name in Haiti, also *hougan*, *hungan*. "There are many things my father [who was one of the great hounsans of the past generation] could do which I cannot do. He could make thunder."

KIDANG

(c) The Malay name for the Indian muntjac or barking deer. Now usually known as *kingang*. "Upon turning the corner of the alleyway, the dog-catcher was shocked to discover that his barking quarry was, in fact, a fully grown kidang."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... f3g3 tears the white king open with decisive consequences, as, if 2, f3g4 R2: - 3. Kh3 R2h2 is mate.

Captain gets staunch support in building solid platform for England

Atherton finds strength in adversity

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN ADELAIDE

ADVERSITY has shadowed Michael Atherton like a backstreet mugger through his time as England captain, denying him peace of mind but failing to stifle his spirit. Atherton performs best when the odds are at their most unfavourable and yesterday here offered his kind of odds.

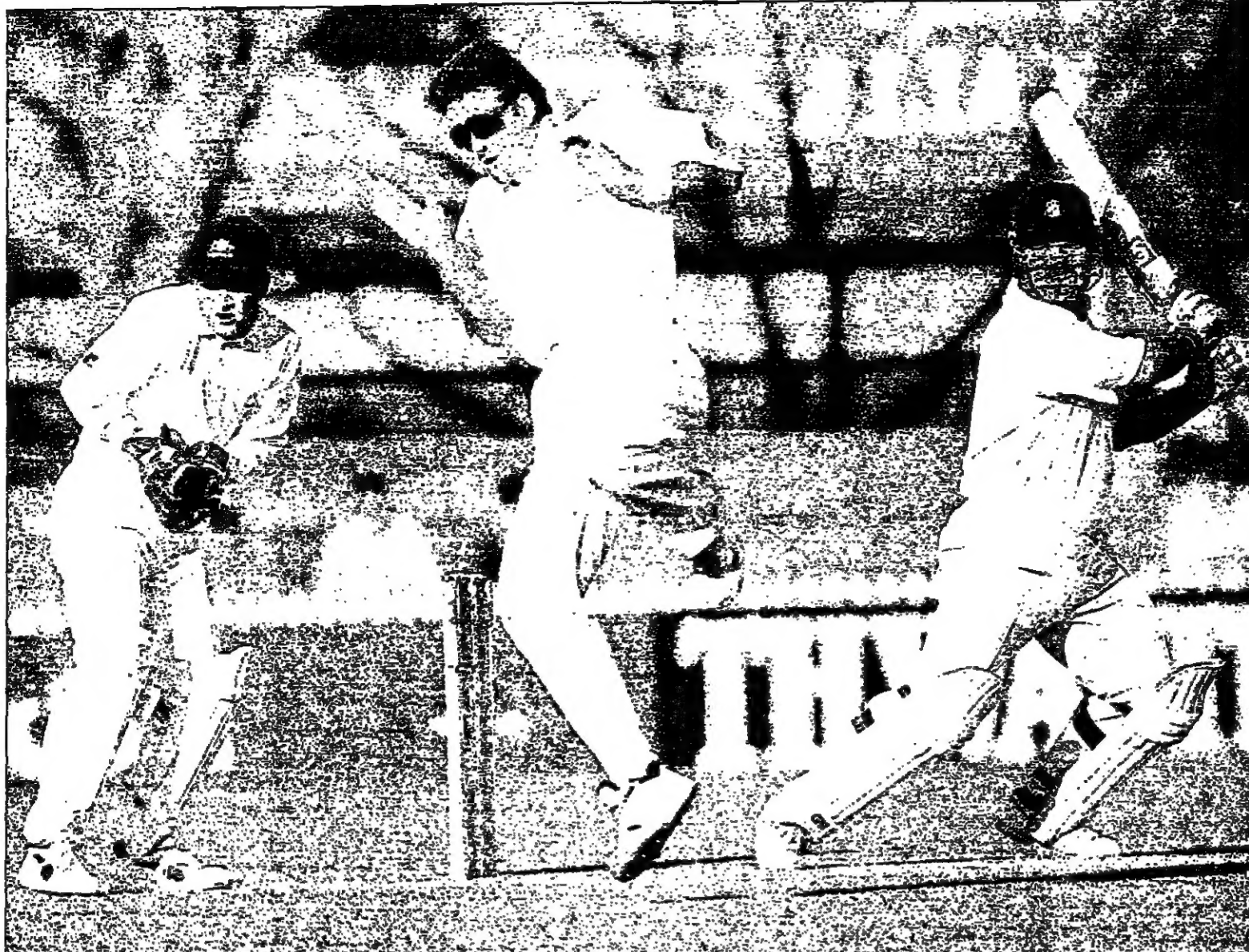
England staggered into this fourth Test with barely a quorum and scarcely a hope. This, anyway, was the view of the bookmakers, who rated Australia odds-on favourites even after Atherton had achieved the first of the day's triumphs by winning the toss. By evening, he and his down-trodden team had achieved very much more.

That Atherton set the example should be no surprise. He has been doing so, frequently with little response, ever since this tour began. That he made 80 was admirable, that he once again fell short of the century that eludes him on this tour was regrettable. But the crucial thing, on a day that dawned full of foreboding for England and their thousands of followers, was that they did not surrender to the pitiless saga of setbacks afflicting them. Indeed, they competed well enough to view the rest of this match with enthusiasm.

For the sentimental, there was good cause to cheer the source of Atherton's staunch support. Graham Gooch scored 47 and was cut short by the second successive dubious decision to befall him in this series. Mike Gatting, whose contribution in five Test innings had been a mere 57 runs, found the touch to accompany his desire and was 50 not out when England closed on 196 for two.

There was irony here, for Gooch and Gatting were inevitably implicated and isolated by Atherton's recently-stated view that England should be pursuing a youth policy. The captain, however, has never doubted the commitment of either of his old retainers.

Sixty-five minutes were lost from the day to a storm sufficiently violent to uproot trees. This spectacular change came as blessed relief to most, after a day of withering, airless humidity, but the delay, 40 minutes into the evening session, was all against



Mark Waugh takes evasive action as Gatting dispatches a delivery from Warne to the boundary on the opening day of the fourth Test

England. It interrupted their systematic plundering of a perspiring attack on a very good pitch and left them a tricky 15 minutes to negotiate when play resumed at 6.45pm.

The two wickets that did fall in the day could each have been avoided with better luck and judgment. Both, strangely, were taken by short deliveries from Damien Fleming.

Gooch was given out, caught at second slip, as an attempted pull looped off his helmet and what seemed to be his shoulder. The umpire, Peter Parker, believed it to be bat or glove.

Atherton fell for the sucker punch, hooking Fleming to David Boon, who had been

dropped back on to the square-leg boundary in the same over. It is a short, square hit here and Atherton, who has struck only one six in his Test career, was not far short of a second. But, as he confessed later, it remained an aberration.

The opening pair put on 93, adding to the striking record they have together which makes it such a wonder they were ever voluntarily parted. Four years ago, on this ground, they shared a first-wicket stand of 203 as Gooch exhorted his team to pursue a target of 472. The same spirit was with them yesterday.

This great ground was packed to its 25,000 capacity before play began and, it

being Australia Day, the teams stood in line and national anthems were played. Gooch, who would have this ritual performed before every Test if he had his way, sang lustily. Atherton considered it better than a team talk.

Before lunch, Australia had their two leg spinners operating together, a rare event in modern Test cricket, let alone in the first session of a game. Whether this pitch supports them later, as predicted, it certainly offered no turn yesterday and Shane Warne was so conspicuously sulky that Ian Healy made a long diversion to speak to him. Mark Taylor was forced to pair the less daunting Greg Blewett

and Mark Waugh during the afternoon.

Gooch departed during a testing spell from Fleming. In the absence of Graeme Hick, Gatting emerged at No 3 for the first time since he last made a Test half-century, at Lord's in 1993. From the outset, he looked more convinced than late but he also enjoyed more fortune. When 19, he was bowled between bat and pad by a beauty from Craig McDermott. Only after he had heard the death rattle of the stumps, and grimaced, did Gatting see the no-ball signal that relieved him.

McDermott examined Gatting from round the wicket after tea, but he survived the ordeal and saw his captain fall instead. Atherton's aggregate for the series is now 352 and he has occupied the crease for the equivalent of almost four playing days. But this was the ninth time in Test cricket he has been out between 80 and 99, for one with only seven centuries, that is a galling statistic.

It was a more culpable dismissal for the obvious immorality of the storm. It struck five balls later, sweeping debris onto the ground, confiscating countless hats and persuading the Barmy Army to perform a saturated conga. They had a day to celebrate, England a match they could begin to savour.

ADELAIDE SCOREBOARD

England won toss	23-0, 6-1-14-0; Warne 11-3-39-0 (5-1-13-0, 4-0-21-0, 2-1-5-0); McIntyre 8-22-0 (w 1); 3-1-7-0, 5-1-16-0; M E Waugh 4-1-16-0 (one each)
ENGLAND: First Innings	AUSTRALIA: M J Slater, M A Taylor, D C Boon, M E Waugh, S R Waugh, G S Stewart, T A Healy, S K Warne, C J Dennis, P E McIntyre and D W Fleming
G A Gooch c M Waugh b Fleming 47 (147min, 105 balls, 4 fours)	Umpires: P D Parker (Australia) and S Venkataraghavan (India); Replay umpire: S J Davis. Match referee: J R Reid (New Zealand)
*M A Atherton c M Waugh b Fleming 80 (220min, 215 balls, 8 fours)	PREVIOUS MATCHES: First Test (Brisbane): Australia won by 184 runs. Second Test (Melbourne): Australia won by 228 runs. Third Test (Sydney): Match drawn.
M W Gatting not out 50 (149min, 111 balls, 7 fours)	MATCH TO COME: Fifth Test: Perth (February 3-7)
G P Thorpe not out 18 (20min, 19 balls, 3 fours)	CI Compiled by Bill Fendall
Extras (w 2, nb 1) 1	
Total (2 wickets, 75 overs, 284min) 196	
J P Crawley 15 J Rhodes C C Lewis P A J DeFreitas A R C Fraser D E Malcolm and P R Tufnell to bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-53 (Atherton 45, 2-175 (Gatting 48))	
BOWLING: McDermott 21-4-31-0 (w 1), 6-3-13-0, 5-4-2-0, 4-2-4-0; Fleming 25-4-50-0 (w 1), 6-5-11-0, 6-9-16-1, 6-9-23-1; Blewett 11-2-37-0 (5-1-13-0, 4-0-21-0, 2-1-5-0); McIntyre 8-22-0 (w 1); 3-1-7-0, 5-1-16-0; M E Waugh 4-1-16-0 (one each)	

Salisbury wins the vote over Weekes

IAN SALISBURY was at the centre of a prolonged selection debate in Calcutta yesterday. In the end, though, the 25-year-old Sussex leg spinner was given the vote of confidence that the England A team management hope will finally bring out the best in him at international level.

Salisbury's selection for the second international against India A tomorrow means there is no place for Paul Weekes, the Middlesex off-spinning all-rounder. The move puts greater responsibility for run-scoring on Dominic Cork of Derbyshire, who goes up to No 6, and on the occasional off-breaks of Michael Vaughan, the young Yorkshire opener.

Min Patel, the Kent left-arm spinner, wins inclusion after his six-wicket haul in Delhi earlier this week, while Paul Nixon, the Leicestershire wicketkeeper, retains his place ahead of Keith Piper, from Warwickshire, because of his extra batting ability.

Salisbury, the only fully-fledged Test player in the A squad after yesterday's departure of Mark Ramprakash for Australia, was in danger of the axe because of a worrying dip in confidence and rhythm. However, it is likely that the presence of the England A captain, Alan Wells, Salisbury's skipper at Sussex, has earned him another chance on a pitch certain to take spin.

"He does get a little bit more bounce than our other spinners and we need every available option in our bowling attack," Wells said. Salisbury began the tour by taking six for 48 against India Youth in Bombay, but suffered in the first international at Bangalore. The pressure is on Salisbury, as the selectors must have debated whether Weekes's all-round contribution could have been more valuable with England 1-0 up in the three-match series.

INDIA A (probable): P Anwar (captain), V Raghun, J Singh, A Muzammar, S Ganguly, R Dravid, V Yadav, S Senanayake, U Chatterjee, R Chaudhari, P Mithunayya

ENGLAND A: A P Wells (captain), N V Knight, M P Vaughan, J E R Garner, D L Hemo, D G Cork, P A Nixon, G Chopra, D K Salcovey, M M Patel, R D Stamp

Aravinda de Silva, the Sri Lanka batsman, has been approached to play for Kent this year as a replacement for Carl Hooper, the all-rounder, who will be touring England with West Indies.

Bob Woolmer, the former England all-rounder, has had his contract as South Africa coach extended by a year to the end of March 1997.

Lament for an opera

Dido and Aeneas, Radio 3, 9.40pm.

If Dido's lament "When I am Laid in Earth" was the only notable aria in Purcell's opera, then it could explain why, from 1704 to 1895, it was not performed. A hundred years later, the lament is probably still the only aria most of us can solemnly hum along with. The big difference is that we can now see *Dido and Aeneas* for what it is — a miniature masterpiece offering soloists, chorus and orchestra with golden chances to shine. Tonight's Dido is Emily Van Evera, Ben Parry is her Aeneas, and Janet Lax her sister Beinda. Andrew Parrott conducts the Taverner Consort and Players. My regret, as always, is that despite his shared billing in the title, poor old Aeneas has so little to do.

The Lion in the Sand, Radio 4 FM, 10.00am.

The third of Bella Barmmerman's programmes about Britons who latched up in the Middle East, is about 8th Army men and their women based in Egypt during the desert war. One story told this morning reminded me of Peter Ustinov's film *Hotel Sahara* in which hotel manager Ustinov changed his allegiance depending on which of the two camps took it in turn to be displayed in the window. One bore the legend "Viva Mussolini", the other "Long Live Monty". Desert madness took many forms. One Desert Rat, plagued by flies, would shoot at them with his machinegun. Peter Davale

RADIO 1

5.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30am Steve Wright in the Morning 9.00am Simon Mayo 12.00am Lisa L'Amour, including at 12.30-12.45 News 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00pm Mark Goodier, including The American Idol 6.00pm The 100% Club 7.00pm Patsy Stone's Essential Selection 10.00pm John Peel, including Xosha 400 from Berlin, and A.C. Acoustics from Glasgow 1.00am The FM Rap Show with Westwood

RADIO 2

5.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15pm Patsy Stone 7.30pm Wives Up to Wogan 9.15pm Patsy Stone 9.30pm Martin Kelner 11.30pm Jimmy Young 2.00pm Gloria Hunniford 3.30pm Ed Stewart 5.00pm John Dunn 7.00pm Maestro! Musical quiz 7.30pm Friday Night in Music Night 8.45pm Treasure Island (9/10) 9.00pm Listen to the Band: Sun Life Band with Bryan Hurdley 10.00pm Tony Stevenson with the Radio 2 Arts Programme: Regional theatre in the South West 12.00am Digby Fairweather with Jazz Notes 1.00am Jon Briggs with Night Ride

RADIO 5 LIVE

12.00am Test Match Special 7.30pm The Football Programme 8.00pm The 100% Club 8.15pm The 100% Club 8.30pm The 100% Club 8.45pm The 100% Club 9.00pm The 100% Club 9.15pm The 100% Club 9.30pm The 100% Club 9.45pm The 100% Club 10.00pm The 100% Club 10.15pm The 100% Club 10.30pm The 100% Club 10.45pm The 100% Club 11.00pm The 100% Club 11.15pm The 100% Club 11.30pm The 100% Club 11.45pm The 100% Club 12.00am The 100% Club 12.15pm The 100% Club 12.30pm The 100% Club 12.45pm The 100% Club 1.00am The 100% Club 1.15pm The 100% Club 1.30pm The 100% Club 1.45pm The 100% Club 1.60pm The 100% Club 1.75pm The 100% Club 1.90pm The 100% Club 2.05pm The 100% Club 2.20pm The 100% Club 2.35pm The 100% Club 2.50pm The 100% Club 3.05pm The 100% Club 3.20pm The 100% Club 3.35pm The 100% Club 3.50pm The 100% Club 4.05pm The 100% Club 4.20pm The 100% Club 4.35pm The 100% Club 4.50pm The 100% Club 5.05pm The 100% Club 5.20pm The 100% Club 5.35pm The 100% Club 5.50pm The 100% Club 6.05pm The 100% Club 6.20pm 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Funny how the same faces keep popping up

In the future all television programmes will be presented by comedians. I realise that now. Silly of me ever to have imagined it might be otherwise. Travel shows, chat shows, assorted dramas, even *Top of the Pops*, have already acknowledged that comedy is king. Even as I write, there are senior executives doubtless coming to the conclusion that what the *Nine O'Clock News* really needs is to be read by Stephen Fry.

But if it is to be the future, then as long as most things star Jennifer Saunders, I won't be complaining too much. Normally, what is remarkable about Saunders is that chameleon-like ability to take on a character and adopt it as her own, totally submerging her own looks and personality in the creative process. That said, in last night's *Heroes and Villains* (BBC 1) she spent an awful lot of time looking like

Jennifer Saunders in familiarly imperious mode. Less remarkable, I suppose, but still quite funny. Just how funny she was supposed to be, however, as Lady Hester Stanhope, the 19th-century adventurer, was never altogether clear. Was this history, geography, drama or comedy? Nobody seemed sure. At times, it invited you to be moved by the extraordinary tale of how Lady H swapped Downing Street for downtown Syria. At others, it flirted alarmingly with the *Carry On* school of film-making. Was it, for example, funny to have our heroine noisily making up for lost time having discovered sex at the age of 34? A close call, but on a wet Thursday night I decided it was.

Patrick Barlow, who both dramatised and starred in the expensive-looking production, employed that rarely used dramatic device of telling the story twice. Once with Lady H telling her tale

to a young admirer in her Palmyra hideaway and once with the same admirer (now, of course, rather older) having the whole thing re-explained to him in Hyde Park by Dr Mervyn (Patrick Barlow). Curious perhaps, but at least it allowed us to follow the plot (outspoken, society spinster travels to Middle East with doctor and lover and stays there) and allowed Barlow to sport a succession of hairpieces that can only be described as post-Pinchin in their elaborate construction.

Among the supporting cast, Patrick Barlow made good use of the part he had written for himself. Scott Handy was touchingly sincere and serious as the admirer and Morocco did a splendid job of standing in for Syria. And if you never really forgot that it was Jennifer Saunders under yet another turban, well it didn't really matter.



Matthew Bond

Nor was there much chance of forgetting who was the star of *Situation Vacant* (BBC 2). I do not know Patrick Deuchar, the chief executive of the Albert Hall, but his formidable reputation goes before him. So it is to his credit that he gave the go-ahead to a programme that made it abundantly clear that here was a man who was seriously difficult to work with.

"What do you mean by 'he

doesn't suffer fools gladly'?" he asked one of his hapless professional advisers as they set about the task of appointing a project manager to oversee the hall's £24 million refurbishment. I rather expected you to understand that, Patrick," replied the recruitment Johnny boldly. He didn't appear again.

Situation Vacant is like a mid-week, executive version of *Blind Date*. All the same compulsive tensions are there. Will they pick the right person, will they say the right thing in their interviews? The only thing missing is "our Graham" to do the summing up. Last night's instalment was almost painfully addictive. Not just because of the formidable Deuchar — "I think at times I am really rather difficult to work for" — but because we were dealing with middle aged men (and they were all men) competing in a recession-hit construction indus-

try. The pervasive atmosphere was one of quiet desperation. If Deuchar deserves praise for enabling the programme to go ahead, the interviewees deserve medals. The camera was ruthless, particularly when it came to the crucial first reactions after the interview. "Hm, certainly not short of confidence," mused Deuchar, condemning one unfortunate to instant rejection. Pats and Lentes sprung mysteriously to mind. Another almost made it, until tripped at the final fence: "I think you would find him very difficult to work with, Patrick." Thank you and good night.

With Deuchar musing in now familiar vein about the dangers of making a bad appointment — "it will be either him leaving or me leaving and I ain't planning to go" it became clear that the successful candidate had apparently been

intelligent enough to object to the camera's presence. I'd love to know how he's getting on with his new boss. Earlier on, *Metropolis* (BBC 2) took the brave step of heading over half an hour of peak-time television to a London cab-driver, a profession hardly deprived of the freedom of speech at the best of times. But when it comes to city traffic, they really do know what they're talking about. As a result, I have learnt that to "surf the green wave" of the Euston Road traffic lights I have to maintain a steady speed of 30 mph (chance would be a fine thing) and that the future for urban traffic is bleak — and stationary. According to one of the experts in the back of the cab, the only solution is road-pricing. "We have come to the end of an era," he said. But we haven't come to the end of tipping.

Lynne Truss is on holiday

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (63640)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (6138244)
 - 9.05 Kilroy. Topical discussion (s) (6498840)
 - 10.00 News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (1374060) 10.05 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (605244)
 - 11.30 Auschitz. Remembered. Live coverage of the commemoration ceremony, presented by John Tusa (7831776)
 - 12.05pm Good Morning with Anne and Nick continued (623973) 12.55 Regional News and weather (7821577)
 - 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (17178)
 - 1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (9182488) 1.50 Timekeepers (s) (9186228)
 - 2.15 Holiday. Includes reports from the Algarve and Tunisia (s). (Ceefax) (s) (481805) 2.45 The Flying Doctors (s). (Ceefax) (s) (5491099)
 - 3.30 Cartoon (5182284) 3.45 Bliss (s) (5187379) 4.00 Jackson. Sandy Tokewitz with the second part of her own story *From Bed to Verse* (s) (6016737) 4.10 Rugsby (s) (5227331) 4.25 The Borrowers (s) (Ceefax) (s) (1777285)
 - 4.55 Newsround Extra. Julie Etchingham examines why some pupils set fire to their schools (7254027) 5.05 Grange Hill (Ceefax) (s) (5023517)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (s). (Ceefax) (s) (944896)
 - 5.50 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (973)
 - 6.30 Regional News Magazine (553)
 - 7.00 Wipeout. Game show presented by Paul Daniels. (Ceefax) (s) (6244)
 - 7.30 Tomorrow's World. Howard Stabfield meets the scientist who has extracted dinosaur DNA from fossils and is now helping archaeologists piece together the puzzle of the Dead Sea Scrolls. (Ceefax) (s) (737)
 - 8.00 Only Fools and Horses. Granddad gets a haunted feeling when Del comes up with his latest money-making scheme (s). (Ceefax) (s) (6992)
 - 8.30 Health and Efficiency. Kate and Michael try to stop Rex from dispersing a dangerous drug to patients in order to resolve a free holiday. (Ceefax) (s) (7027)
 - 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (5757)
- 10.00 FILM: White Mischief** (1988) starring Greta Scacchi, Charles Dance and Joss Ackland. Based on James Fick's book of the true-life romance between the Earl of Enniskillen and the beautiful wife of Sir John Delves Broughton. An affair which rocked society and led to brutal murder. (582000) Wales: All Our Lives 10.50 Snooker — 1995 Regal Welsh Open Championship 11.25-1.00am Film: *White Mischief*
- 12.05am FILM: Strange Brew** (1983) starring and directed by Rick Moranis and David Thomas. A megalomaniacal brewer uses a drugged bear in a bid to take over the world (520222)
- 1.35 Weather** (9350100)

- BBC2**
- 7.00 The Adventures of Buzzy Bee and Friends (s) (4303263) 7.05 The Family News (s) (430254)
 - 7.10 Prince Valiant (s). (Ceefax) (s) (868088) 7.35 Blue Peter (s). (Ceefax) (s) (189068)
 - 8.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax and signing) (6780263)
 - 8.15 The Record (712553)
 - 8.35 Consuming Passions. Calzone (s) (7120805)
 - 8.40 The Time Of Your Life. Canadian series on the enterprising elderly (s) (4851888)
 - 9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (1683963) 2.00 Johnson and Friends (41172805)
 - 2.10 Sport On Friday. Tennis: the men's semi-finals of the Australian Open; Football: a preview of tomorrow's fourth round of the FA Cup. Includes News and weather at 3.00 (s) (624517) 3.50 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (860337)
 - 4.00 Today's The Day. Recent history quiz (s) (466)
 - 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (350)
 - 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. The guests include adulterous couples (338244)
 - 5.40 Decisions. Gillian King and the daughter she gave away for adoption 25 years ago explain why they decided to find each other (s) (48293)
 - 6.00 Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons (s). (Ceefax) (s) (57500)
 - 6.25 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased) (s) (948447)
 - 7.15 The O-Zone. Pop music magazine (s) (143805)
 - 7.30 Sounds of the Studios (s) (379)
 - 8.00 Countrywoman: The Laird of Auchlin. (Ceefax) (s) (5534)
 - 8.30 Geoff Hamilton's Cottage Gardens. (Ceefax) (s) (568)
 - 9.00 Bottom. Comedy starring Adrian Edmondson and Rick Mayall. (Ceefax) (s) (6379)
- 9.30 The High Life.** Airline crew comedy starring Alan Cumming and Forbes Mason. (Ceefax) (s) (86640)
- 10.00 The Day Today.** Spoof current affairs series (s). (Ceefax) (s) (79027)
- 10.30 Newsnight.** (Ceefax) (104060)
- 11.15 Fantasy Football League (s)** (745404). Wales: Welsh Lobby 11.45 Fantasy Football League 12.15am Duckman 12.45-2.00 Film: *Bride of Frankenstein*
- 11.45 Duckman.** Adult animation (s) (92966)
- 12.10am Weather** (982620)
- 12.15 FILM: The Bride of Frankenstein** (1935, b/w) starring Boris Karloff. A classic horror directed by James Whale. (Ceefax) (609597). Ends at 1.35
- VideoPlayer and the Video PlusCode**
- The number next to a video title indicates the Video PlusCode, which allows you to programme your video recorder using a VideoPlus+ remote control. VideoPlus+ is a system developed by the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. For more information on VideoPlus+, contact your local video rental shop or write to VideoPlus+, c/o VideoPlus+, P.O. Box 100, London SW10 0AA. VideoPlus+ is a registered trademark of VideoPlus+ Ltd.

- Channel 4**
- 6.00am GMTV (3020843)
 - 9.25 Chain Letters. Word game (4516718) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (8213242)
 - 10.00 The Time... The Place presented by John Stapleton (s) (9691824)
 - 10.35 This Morning (3273973) 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) and weather (7823592)
 - 12.30 ITN News (Teletext) and weather (782350)
 - 12.55 Coronation Street (s). (Teletext) (7207688) 1.25 Home and Away (Teletext) (3462534)
 - 1.55 The Crystal Ball. Frank Frank debates with a studio audience (6785878)
 - 2.25 A Country Practice (s) (17601008) 2.50 Take the High Road (682268)
 - 3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (5144640) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (5143911)
 - 3.30 Rosie and Jim (s) (5187992) 3.45 Warner Brothers Cartoon (5182447) 4.00 Zzzap! (s) (238447) 4.15 Tiny Toon Adventures (4052718) 4.40 Virtually Improbable (Teletext) (s) (537291)
 - 5.10 After 5 (Teletext) (9178485)
 - 5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (45319)
 - 6.00 Home and Away (s). (Teletext) (502114)
 - 6.25 London Tonight presented by Lindsay Chertton and Fiona Fothergill. (Teletext) (25434)
 - 7.00 Catchphrase with Roy Walker. (Teletext) (s) (7840)
 - 7.30 Coronation Street. A 999 call leads to a dash to hospital for one street resident. (Teletext) (805)

Rintoul, McQuarrie and Bannen (ITV, 9.00pm)

Dr Finlay

ITV, 9.00pm

Another fictional medic, meanwhile, is back for a new series. With Janet finally married, young Dr Neil off to pursue new and old Dr Cameron in retirement it seemed that the show had come to a natural conclusion. Happily this is not so. Janet (Annette Crook) is still much in evidence. Cameron (Ian Bannen) continues to find a demand for his skills, whether medical or advising a film company on the pronunciation of Robert Burns's poems. There is a new young doctor (Stuart McQuarrie), though he must surely exceed his brother's ways if he is to stay at Arden House. And Finlay (David Rintoul) bumps into an old flame, who has recently lost her husband. The juggling of plots and characters is as sure as ever.

Countrywoman

BBC2, 8.00pm

People get the wrong idea about the landed gentry, says Judy Bowser, who owns 10,000 acres and four farms in Perthshire. The wealth, she insists, is in the land and not her pocket. Even so, she makes a fair living, from deer stalking, grouse shooting, salmon fishing and the farms. Bowser is 69, an age, she says, at which your friends are either dead or immobile. She, parenthetically, is neither. The centrepiece of this lively portrait is a deer hunt. Bowser defends what to many might seem a shocking practice, though she hopes for an instant kill and no suffering. Her daughter is set to take over the estate. Meanwhile she offers her own epitaph: "I'm known as one of the meanest people on earth but we're still here after 102 years."

Geoff Hamilton's Cottage Gardens

BBC2, 8.30pm

The subject for tonight is growing things upwards, not on the face of things a twisting theme until you realise that it embraces arches, trellis, pergolas and shaping hedges so that they look like peacocks or chickens. The programme combines visits to established gardens with Geoff Hamilton's advice on how to build the supporting structures and what plants to grow up them. Roses, climbing and rambling, feature strongly, but there is also a look at clematis, solanum, honeysuckle and sweet peas. This continues to be an attractive and practical series, of special appeal to town gardeners who yearn to create an ambience of countryside outside the back door. Peter Waymark

SKY ONE

- 8.00am DJ Kool Show (6192) 8.00 Power Rangers (1197) 8.10 The Koolhaas (6192) 8.15 The Koolhaas (6192) 8.20 The Koolhaas (6192) 8.25 The Koolhaas (6192) 8.30 The Koolhaas (6192) 8.35 The Koolhaas (6192) 8.40 The Koolhaas (6192) 8.45 The Koolhaas (6192) 8.50 The Koolhaas (6192) 8.55 The Koolhaas (6192) 9.00 The Koolhaas (6192)

SKY NEWS

- 8.00am News on the hour. 8.00am Sunrise (702553) 8.30 Worldwide Report (6480) 10.30 ABC Nightline (6178) 1.30pm CBS News (7369) 2.30am Parliament Live (6878) 3.30 The Week in the News (6878) 4.30am CBS News (7369) 5.30am CBS News (7369) 6.30am CBS News (7369) 7.30am CBS News (7369) 8.30am CBS News (7369) 9.30am CBS News (7369) 10.30am CBS News (7369) 11.30am CBS News (7369) 12.30am CBS News (7369)

SKY MOVIES

- 8.00am Showtime (210002) 10.00 Movie Over, Darling (1952) (3448) 12.00 Ordeal in the Arctic (1952) (3479) 2.00am Summer and Smoke (1961) (2263) 4.00am Summer and Smoke (1961) (2263) 6.00am Summer and Smoke (1961) (2263) 8.00am Summer and Smoke (1961) (2263) 10.00am Summer and Smoke (1961) (2263) 12.00am Summer and Smoke (1961) (2263)

SKY NEWS GOLD

- 8.00am The People that Time Forgot (1977) (8351649) 7.00 One-Step Beyond (1961) (810505) 10.00-12.00 Don't Look Now (1976) (5130)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

- 8.00am Trivia (1989) (8245640) 7.35 The Little Mermaid: Cartoon (687000)

- CARLTON/LWT**
- 6.00am GMTV (3020843)
 - 9.25 Chain Letters. Word game (4516718) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (8213242)
 - 10.00 The Time... The Place presented by John Stapleton (s) (9691824)
 - 10.35 This Morning (3273973) 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) and weather (7823592)
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 - 3.30 Rosie and Jim (s) (5187992) 3.45 Warner Brothers Cartoon (5182447) 4.00 Zzzap! (s) (238447) 4.15 Tiny Toon Adventures (4052718) 4.40 Virtually Improbable (Teletext) (s) (537291)
 - 5.10 After 5 (Teletext) (9178485)
 - 5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (45319)
 - 6.00 Home and Away (s). (Teletext) (502114)
 - 6.25 London Tonight presented by Lindsay Chertton and Fiona Fothergill. (Teletext) (25434)
 - 7.00 Catchphrase with Roy Walker. (Teletext) (s) (7840)
 - 7.30 Coronation Street. A 999 call leads to a dash to hospital for one street resident. (Teletext) (805)

Jaye Griffiths as DI Sally Johnson (8.00pm)

8.00 The Bill: Done is Done. DI Johnson's (Jaye Griffiths) friends are in short supply. (Teletext) (805)

8.30 The Upper Hand. Role-reversal comedy series starring Joe McGann and Diana Weston. Caroline's offer of a new flat for her mother does not resolve the reaction she expects. (Teletext) (s) (2195)

9.00 Doctor Finlay: Old Flames. (Teletext) (s) (9331)

10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (65553)

10.30 Crime Moment. Crime update for the London area (1008)

11.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (448379)

11.40 FILM: Longarm (1968) starring John T. Terlesky and Whitney Kersey. A tough American marshal with an eye for the ladies, is dedicated to ending the rampant lawlessness in the untamed post-civil war New Mexico territory. Directed by Virgil Vogel (25845)

1.05am The James Whale Show (s) (2113041)

2.05 The Chart Show (s) (3005454)

3.00 Nolely Movies. Rock and heavy metal music magazine (s) (9618190)

3.55 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema. A review of the latest American films (964157)

4.30 The New Music includes a report from Jamaica's Sunfest 94 festival from Montego Bay, and Japanese all-girl band Shonen Knife (48428)

5.30 ITN Morning News (94480). Ends at 6.00

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

- 6.00am Sesame Street. Early-learning fun (600000) 6.30am Sesame Street. Early-learning fun (600000) 7.00am Sesame Street. Early-learning fun (600000) 7.30am Sesame Street. Early-learning fun (600000) 8.00am Sesame Street. Early-learning fun (600000) 8.30am Sesame Street. Early-learning fun (600000) 9.00am Sesame Street. Early-learning fun (600000) 9.30am Sesame Street. Early-learning fun (600000) 10.00am Sesame Street. Early-learning fun (600000) 10.30am Sesame Street. Early-learning fun (600000) 11.00am Sesame Street. Early-learning fun (600000) 11.30am Sesame Street. Early-learning fun (600000) 12.00am Sesame Street. Early-learning fun (600000)

SKY SPORTS

- 8.00am Soccer News (200379) 8.15 Film: *Star Wars* (243603) 8.30 WFF Action Zone (6033) 8.40 Soccer News (200379) 8.50 Soccer News (200379) 9.00 Soccer News (200379) 9.10 Soccer News (200379) 9.20 Soccer News (200379) 9.30 Soccer News (200379) 9.40 Soccer News (200379) 9.50 Soccer News (200379) 10.00 Soccer News (200379) 10.10 Soccer News (200379) 10.20 Soccer News (200379) 10.30 Soccer News (200379) 10.40 Soccer News (200379) 10.50 Soccer News (200379) 11.00 Soccer News (200379) 11.10 Soccer News (200379) 11.20 Soccer News (200379) 11.30 Soccer News (200379) 11.40 Soccer News (200379) 11.50 Soccer News (200379) 12.00 Soccer News (200379)

EUROSPORT

- 7.00am Eurosport (68000) 8.30 Olympic Magazine (68000) 9.30 Eurosport (68000) 10.00am Eurosport (68000) 11.00am Eurosport (68000) 12.00am Eurosport (68000)

SKY SOAP

- 8.00am Love (303373) 8.30 Peyton Place (232244) 9.00 The World Tomorrow (1000) 10.00am Gullin Gul (488800) 11.00-12.00 Another World (68884)

UK GOLD

- 7.00am Give Us a Cue (784759) 7.30 Neighbours (718283) 8.00am Sons and Daughters (727840) 8.30 EastEnders

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.35 Once Upon A Time — Life (s) (8736892)
 - 7.00 The Big Breakfast (30027)
 - 9.00 You Bet Your Life (s) (43803)
 - 9.30 Schools. Eureka! (6527805) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (651580) 10.00 Fourways Farm (1381350)
 - 10.10 Maths Everywhere (9137824) 10.25 Eurodisco (9132379) 10.40 Off Limits (2574379) 11.05 Schools at Work (752089) 11.11 Time for Maths (1874827) 11.22 Stage One (5274783) 11.40 How We Used to Live (953534)
 - 12.00 Profiles Of Nature: Growing with Nature. A kind of home movie as Dan Gibson films his two young sons during their summer holidays in the wilderness, learning to identify birds and animals (s) (3466)
 - 12.30 Sesame Street (49027) 1.30 The Magic Roundabout followed by The Wombles, Paddington and Noggin the Nog (40045599)
 - 1.55 Pool's Play. A documentary about unusual street artists (7389020)
 - 2.25 FILM: Go To Blazes (1961, b/w) starring Dave King. Vintage comedy directed by Michael Truman (268804)
 - 4.00 Travellog (s). (Teletext) (s) (534)
 - 4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (718)
 - 4.50 Cutting Edge: Growing Apart. The story of seven British mothers trying to gain access to their children, taken by their Libyan fathers (s). (Teletext) (s) (4553)
 - 6.00 Blossom (s). (Teletext) (s) (911)
 - 6.30 Moviewatch. Includes cinemagoers in Hull reviewing the latest releases (s) (253)
 - 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (153008)
 - 7.50 You Don't Know Me But... Advice for a person in the news (104178)

Leslie Land in showground Maine (8.00pm)

8.00 The 3,000 Mile Garden. The second of a six-part series about Roger Phillips and Leslie Land, keen gardeners separated by the Atlantic. (Teletext) (1802)

8.30 Brookside (Teletext) (s) (1927)

9.00 Ellen. American comedy series starring Ellen DeGeneres. (Teletext) (s) (1447)

9.30 Rising Damp. Classic boarding house comedy starring Leonard Rossiter (s). (Teletext) (90008)

10.00 Roseanne. (Teletext) (s) (54195)

10.30 Jo Brand — Through the Cakehole. Stand-up comedy series (s). (Teletext) (s) (494195)

11.05 The Word (s) (55668)

12.00am Beavis and Butt-head. Animated video reviews (s) (3897480)

12.35 FILM: Grace Under Fire (1985) starring Katharine Hepburn and Noel Coward. A black comedy about an ageing widow who blackmails a hitman into killing off those of her elderly friends who want to die. Directed by Anthony Harvey (955022)

2.15 FILM: The Picture Snatcher (1933, b/w) starring James Cagney and Ralph Bellamy. A drama about a former convict who becomes a forerunner of the present-day paparazzi. Lloyd Bostock directs (6183770) Ends at 3.35

UK LIVING

- 6.00am Agony Hour (198944) 7.00 Living Magazine (218892) 8.00 Footprint Country (178008) 8.15 Live Magazine's Everyday Life (782331) 8.30 The Truth About Women (780088) 8.40 Marco (450589) 8.50 Now You See It (788888) 9.00 The Trap (434278) 10.30 The Susan Power Show (631458) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (620611) 12.00 Redneckness (828845) 12.30am Key (951824) 1.30 Family Affairs (402768) 2.00 Agony Hour (434347) 3.00 Living Magazine (438282) 3.45 Gladiators and Glamour (6771534) 4.00 Intuition (930737) 4.30 True Time (1024379) 4.55 Easing Out with John Tusa (228778) 5.30 Kate and Allie (638073) 6.00 The Susan Power Show (631014) 6.30 The New Mr and Mrs Show (631458) 7.00 Living Magazine (631739) 8.00 The Young and the Restless (731719) 9.00 FILM: Double Standards (1989) 9.30 The New Mr and Mrs Show (727222) 11.30-12.00 Intuition UK (431032)

FAMILY CHANNEL

- 6.00pm Dingo Movie (5008) 5.30 Blubs Womers (78892) 6.25 All Cued Up (607521) 7.00 Tinsel Tinsel (5244) 7.30 The Two Dicks (6543) 8.00 Road to Avonlea (68011) 8.30 The Brady Bunch Movie (52824) 9.00 Moonlighting (52035) 10.00 Family Catchphrase (7582) 10.30 GP (6052) 11.00 Law Grant (4350) 12.00 Probe (6024) 12.30am Big Brother (62816) 1.00am Danger Movie (67648) 1.30 Tinsel Tinsel (1751) 2.00 Moonlighting (732673) 2.30am Big Brother (62816) 3.00am The Big Brother (62816)

MTV

- 5.00am News on the Rocks (33461) 6.00 The Grid (2005) 7.00 Awake on the

ANGLIA

- As London except: 1.55 The Young Doctors (9150821) 2.30 Gardens with the Stars (s) (920388) 2.55-3.30 What You Were Here? (s) (922268) 3.55-4.00 Shortland Street (9170488) 4.10-4.20 The Young Doctors (9150821) 4.30-4.40 The Young Doctors (9150821) 4.50-5.00 The Young Doctors (9150821) 5.10-5.20 The Young Doctors (9150821) 5.30-5.40 The Young Doctors (9150821) 5.50-6.00 The Young Doctors (9150821) 6.10-6.20 The Young Doctors (9150821) 6.30-6.40 The Young Doctors (9150821) 6.50-7.00 The Young Doctors (9150821) 7.10-7.20 The Young Doctors (9150821) 7.30-7.40 The Young Doctors (9150821) 7.50-8.00 The Young Doctors (9150821) 8.10-8.20 The Young Doctors (9150821) 8.30-8.40 The Young Doctors (9150821) 8.50-9.00 The Young Doctors (9150821) 9.10-9.20 The Young Doctors (9150821) 9.30-9.40 The Young Doctors (9150821) 9.50-10.00 The Young Doctors (9150821) 10.10-10.20 The Young Doctors (9150821) 10.30-10.40 The Young Doctors (9150821) 10.50-11.00 The Young Doctors (9150821) 11.10-11.20 The Young Doctors (9150821) 11.30-11.40 The Young Doctors (9150821) 11.50-12.00 The Young Doctors (9150821) 12.10-12.20 The Young Doctors (9150821) 12.30-12.40 The Young Doctors (9150821) 12.50-1.00am The Young Doctors (9150821) 1.10-1.20am The Young Doctors (9150821) 1.30-1.40am The Young Doctors (9150821) 1.50-2.00am The Young Doctors (9150821) 2.10-2.20am The Young Doctors (9150821) 2.30-2.40am The Young Doctors (9150821) 2.50-3.00am The Young Doctors (9150821) 3.10-3.20am The Young Doctors (9150821) 3.30-3.40am The Young Doctors (9150821) 3.50-4.00am The Young Doctors (9150821) 4.10-4.20am The Young Doctors (9150821) 4.30-4.40am The Young Doctors (9150821) 4.50-5.00am The Young Doctors (9150821) 5.10-5.20am The Young Doctors (9150821) 5.30-5.40am The Young Doctors (9150821) 5.50-6.00am The Young Doctors (9150821) 6.10-6.20am The Young Doctors (9150821) 6.30-6.40am The Young Doctors (9150821) 6.50-7.00am The Young Doctors (9150821) 7.10-7.20am The Young Doctors (9150821) 7.30-7.40am The Young Doctors (9150821) 7.50-8.00am The Young Doctors (9150821) 8.10-8.20am The Young Doctors (9150821) 8.30-8.40am The Young Doctors (9150821) 8.50-9.00am The Young Doctors (9150821) 9.10-9.20am The Young Doctors (9150821) 9.30-9.40am The Young Doctors (9150821) 9.50-10.00am The Young Doctors (9150821) 10.10-10.20am The Young Doctors (9150821) 10.30-10.40am The Young Doctors (9150821) 10.50-1

Frenchman faces disrepute charge after attack on spectator at Selhurst Park

FA pledges severe penalty for Cantona

By DAVID MILLER

NEVER has an incident more clearly demonstrated the need for a national governing body to conduct, independently, disciplinary matters concerning the FA Premier League than Eric Cantona's crazed behaviour at Selhurst Park on Wednesday night. Some Premiership chairmen are pressing, nonsensically, for self-government.

The Football Association yesterday gave Cantona 14 days to respond to a charge of bringing the game into disrepute. It is believed the FA, between morning and afternoon, persuaded a reluctant Manchester United to suspend its French international centre forward until the time of the hearing.

An announcement to this effect was expected from Old Trafford late last night or early this morning.

Behind the prosaic terms of the FA's statement yesterday — "stain on the game", "bound to face severe penalties", "ap-

there to be prosecutions against Cantona and Paul Ince.

There is the precedent of points deduction for brawling on the field. How much more should there be for assault on spectators?

After Cantona had jumped feet first at a spectator's chest, immediately after having been sent off for kicking Crystal Palace's central defender, Shaw, Ince waded into the mêlée of spectators and stewards.

Manchester United's overall disciplinary record at present is not that bad. They are predominantly a graceful team. But the faith of Alex Ferguson, the manager, when loyally standing behind Cantona after four sendings-off in 16 months has proved misguided and unrewarded. The astonishingly gifted Cantona seemingly has a generic character flaw, and I repeat my observation immediately after the match: he should be placed on the transfer list and banned from the club.

The financial loss involved — not that it should be a factor, considering the disgrace inflicted upon United and the game — is arguable. Cantona's immense contribution has already been the catalyst in two successive championship titles. He should now be sent home to France to face the wrath of his own federation and his own people.

The French Federation, equally angry by the incident, yesterday promised severe action. Claude Simonet, its vice-president, said it was preparing "draconian measures" and the case deserved "serious, detailed attention".

At one moment on Wednesday, Cantona was walking down the touchline, chin raised in defiance and disdain, like some defeated French general, the next he had leapt into the crowd. If his temporary insanity is intolerable so is the element of hate that still runs through some crowds.

England can be proud of the return to fence-free grounds, and the post-Hillsborough re-establishment of predominant crowds of control. But Wednesday's incident, like Hillsborough's tragedy, was the product of several concurrent, converging factors:



Kelly, left, and David Davies at the FA's press conference at which it was indicated Cantona would face "severe penalties" for his actions, including lunging feet first at a spectator

FA charges 1
Flawed philosopher 14
Letters 17
Leading article 17
Rob Hughes 36
Football's reaction 36

pulling example to youngsters" — lay the clear intention to impose the heaviest penalties ever upon a delinquent player.

The statement said the FA would do everything to prevent such a disgraceful event happening again. Asked if this could mean an indefinite ban, Graham Kelly, the chief executive, said: "We have the widest powers, and will not hesitate to use them."

Yet, in answer to another question on whether there would be discipline against Manchester United — especially in the event of criminal charges for assault on members of the paying public — Kelly said cautiously: "They [United] will undoubtedly suffer [from penalties on Cantona]. It could be counter-productive for the FA to take sanctions in the light of [present tensions in] relations between the FA and Premier League."

There is the urgent need for the FA to show its muscle. We can expect it will against Cantona, but is less likely to against United, even were

1: Too tolerant refereeing in the first half that permitted excessive unlawful tackling by a desperate, relegation-threatened Palace defence.

2: Previous physical provocation by Shaw in challenging for the ball.

3: Unacceptable provocation by the crowd.

4: Absence of crowd protection for Cantona as well as from him.

of the blame must lie with the well-intentioned Ferguson.

The Manchester United manager, and indeed the whole game, must recognise that victory without honour is worthless. This is the message that the FA, and Manchester United, must present.

It is also wrong for Taylor to suggest that authorities should bear in mind that Cantona is the PFA "player of the year". That is something Cantona should have kept in mind.

Fifa, the sport's world governing body, said through a spokesman it deplored Cantona's behaviour but would not intervene unless requested to do so by the FA.

Mother nature cries foul on best sporting endeavour

By SIMON WILDE



SOME sportsmen may take laws into their own hands, others may think they are above them, but none can do anything about the stern hand of nature. World championship skiers, Test cricketers, National Hunt jockeys, rugby league players, even boxers and basketball players, have all found that out in the past 24 hours.

The world alpine skiing championships, scheduled to begin in the Spanish resort of Sierra Nevada on Monday, were — unsurprisingly — postponed yesterday. The worst snow season in 90 years at Sierra Nevada forced the first postponement in the championship's 64-year history.

Jerónimo Paz, the head of the Spanish organising committee, put

the decision down to "force majeure" and said the venue was ready to stage the championships in February 1996.

Local businesses will have to wait until then to reap the £7 million they had been counting on taking during the championship fortnight.

Whitehaven, having run in 15 tries in 63 minutes before their second-division match with Highfield was abandoned because of snow on Wednesday evening, will await with interest the deliberations of the Rugby Football League's board of directors as to whether the match should be replayed.

The result is likely to stand, a verdict that even Highfield, who last weekend became the first professional club to be eliminated from the Silk Cut Challenge Cup by amateur opposition

for 86 years, may not feel like contesting. They were trailing 86-6.

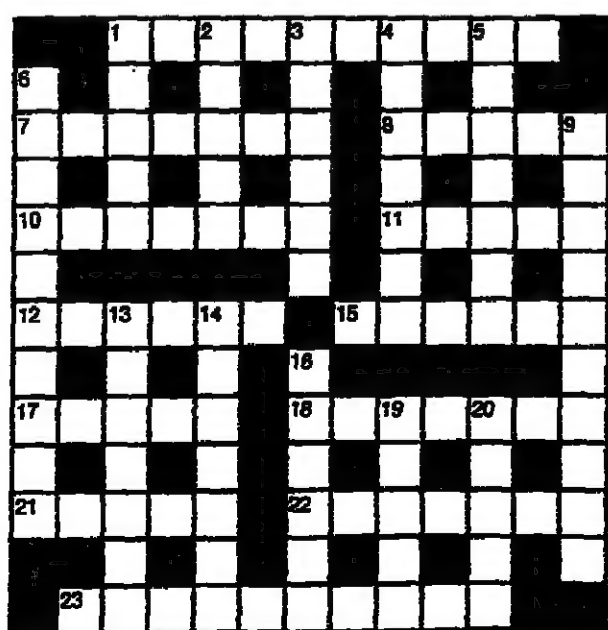
One future which will be rearranged is the Budweiser League basketball match between Manchester Giants and Leicester Riders that was abandoned after only four minutes on Wednesday. A leak in the roof of the new multi-million pound National Cycling Centre caused a puddle of water on court and left the surface too slippery for the players' safety to be ensured. "I've been in the game a long time but I've never seen anything like this before," Edwin James, the Leicester coach, said.

Naseem Hamed, the super-bantamweight boxer, was forced to postpone a press conference in London yesterday to announce his next opponent after he was snowed in at his home in

Sheffield. The office of Frank Warren, Hamed's promoter, said: "Naz started out from his home in Wincobank but his four-wheel drive jeep was unable to get to the top of the road because of snow."

Even the fourth Test match in Adelaide, where temperatures are known to touch rare heights, witnessed extraordinary scenes. A humid afternoon erupted into a devastating storm which uprooted trees, swept debris on to the ground and brought rain that halted play for 65 minutes. Groundstaff had to lie on the tarpaulin covers to keep them in place.

A race meeting was cancelled at Huntingdon yesterday, and others at Doncaster and Ffosfabon today and Uttoxeter tomorrow have been lost already, to snow or waterlogging.



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 380

ACROSS

- 1 (Packed) full (2,8)
- 7 Inner working parts (7)
- 8 Earnestly ask (5)
- 10 Go before (7)
- 11 Elephant tusk material (5)
- 12 Illegible writing (6)
- 15 Cow; woolly; island (6)
- 17 Young eel (5)
- 18 Disinclination to move, work (7)
- 21 Avail; wait (at table) (5)
- 22 Morsel of information (7)
- 23 Law fallen into disuse (4,6)

DOWN

- 1 Hint of colour (5)
- 2 Bending line (5)
- 3 Crayon; delicate colour (6)
- 4 Thicken; to trim this (7)
- 5 Little shudders, quiverings (7)
- 6 Displace from ownership (10)
- 9 G&S impresario (5,5)
- 13 Go backwards; a setback (7)
- 14 Explosive part of missile (7)
- 16 Organised body cells; disposable wipe (6)
- 19 Decree (5)
- 20 Drinker (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 379

ACROSS: 7 Extravaganza 9 Arraign 10 Tango 11 Root 12 Pentagon 15 Aesthete 17 Liar 19 Shrew 21 Renegade 22 Notification

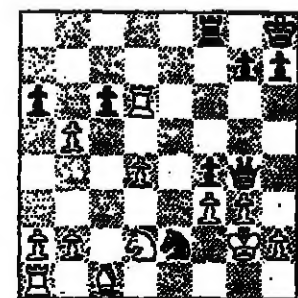
DOWN: 1 Uxorious 2 Grail 3 Evince 4 Agitate 5 Anon 6 War of nerves 8 Hair-raising 13 Goings-on 14 Show off 16 Thrive 18 Unity 20 Rote

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Ljubojevic - Nunn, Szrak 1987. Although Black has queen for rook and bishop, White's position is solid and he is threatening to vacuum off Black's queenside pawns. Nevertheless, Black has a way to power through on the kingside. Can you find it?

Solution, page 37
Raymond Keene, page 9



By Philip Howard

NEKULTURNY

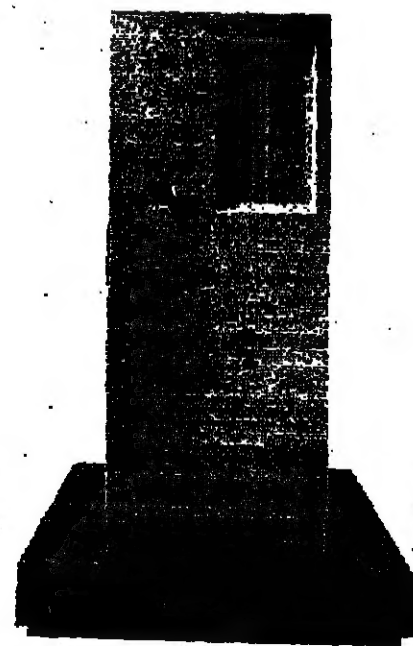
- a. The practice of shelling shellfish
- b. Unenlightened
- c. A Celtic festival
- LAPPIE
- a. A dish-cloth
- b. A dog, bred for ornamental use
- c. Portuguese fish stew

ornamental use

- c. Portuguese fish stew
- HOUNGAN
- a. Haggard
- b. A voodoo priest
- c. A cape woven from grass
- KIDANG
- a. A difficult surfing manoeuvre

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